MADRAS INFORMATION

VOL. II MADRAS, 15th NOVEMBER 1948 NO. 20

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ANNIVERSARY OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICE IN DOMINION CAPITAL

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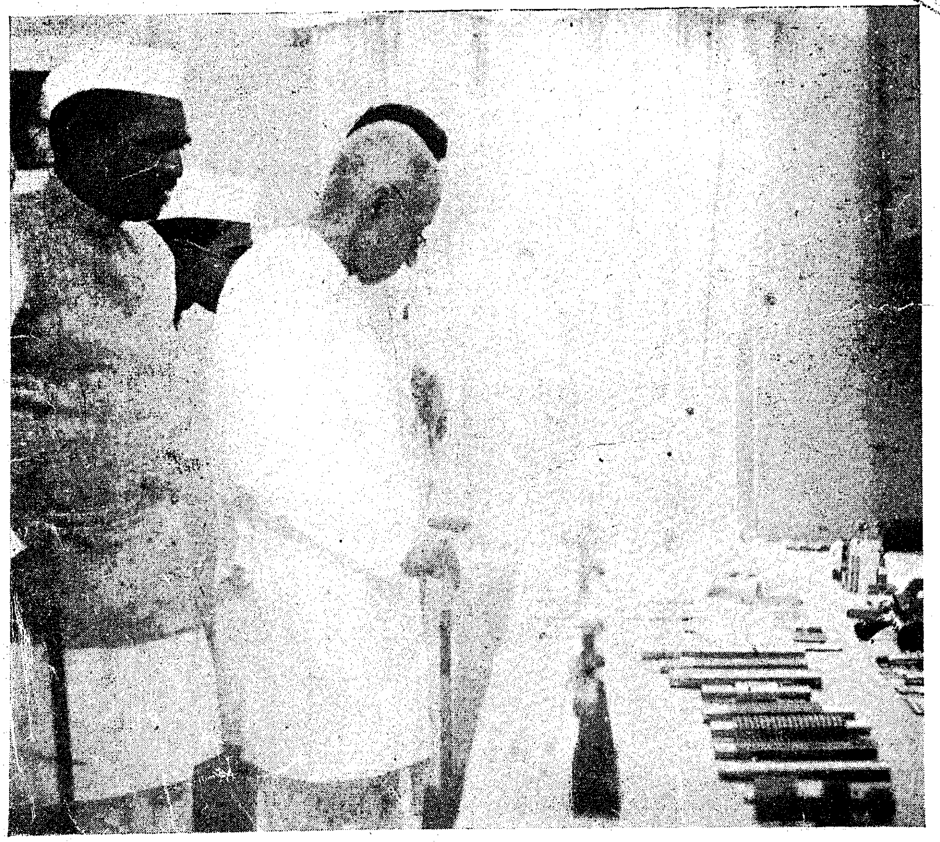

Above.—*A side view of the permanent showroom attached to the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment*

Left.—*H. E. the Governor-General is inspecting some of the exhibits in the showroom*

Madras Information

Published every fortnight by the Director of Information and Publicity
Fort St. George

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Vol. II, No. 20 "WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE" November 15, 1948

NOTES AND COMMENTS

National Employment Service

Presiding over the third anniversary celebrations of the National Employment Service, His Excellency Sri C. Rajagopalachari said there was no doubt that the work of this Service was of the greatest importance.

The Employment Service in India consists of 54 Employment Exchanges and 208 Training Centres. While the Employment Exchange finds jobs for those who need them, the Training Centres provide training in about 150 trades and occupations to those who desire such training as a means of equipping themselves for gainful employment. The Exchanges are becoming increasingly popular. In July 1946, the number of persons on their registers was 142,520 and of those placed in employment 5,254. Two years later, that is, in July 1948, the corresponding figures were 226,449 and 27,200. Two years ago, only 2,154 employers were utilizing the Employment Exchange machinery for their labour recruitment, but to-day the number is 3,829. Then, again, while in June 1946 only 918 persons were receiving training at the Training Centres of the Labour Ministry, to-day the number is over 15,000.

The scope and objects of the Employment Service are widely known. The Employment Organization collects data regarding the man-power requirements of employers for various types of work and also registers all who seek employment assistance. Its methods of work are scientific so that each worker is categorized according to his experience and skill, in order that, when a vacancy is notified the candidates of the exact category may be selected immediately and submitted to the employers for consideration. Employment Service thus possesses far more detailed information about available workers than any individual employer whose knowledge is, of necessity, restricted to a particular locality and whose field of selection is limited to those workers who come to his gate for employment. In the language of Mr. K. D. Jones, a former Director of Employment Exchanges in the Government of India, the Exchanges should be regarded as "Man-Power Banks". If regarded in this way no employer would hesitate to go to the Exchanges for his workers.

The Employment Exchanges match men with vacancies and also help in preparing a man-power estimate. But a mere estimate of man-power demands is not enough. The demands will have to be met and the available supply will have to be trained and equipped so as to be of the greatest value in the undertaking for which they are required. Training is imparted at the 200 and odd Training Centres which the Labour Ministry have set up in various parts of the country. The object of these Centres is to train men for the trades and occupations in which there is a shortage of qualified personnel and to ensure a steady supply of skilled labour which is required for the various schemes of industrial expansion and economic development. The list of trades and occupations taught include many useful ones such as moulding, welding, electro-plating, tinsmithy, carpentry and trainees are paid an allowance covering a stipend and boarding and lodging charges. The syllabuses of training have been drawn up in consultation with the representatives of industry and in the light of the demands of the country.

A striking feature of the training Schemes is that every possible assistance is given to the trainees so that they can perfect themselves in their trades and produce articles of marketable quality. To encourage trainees in this work a bonus based on the period of training undergone by each trainee is paid to him. This payment is not made as it falls due from time to time but is accumulated till the trainee completes his course when he is paid the whole amount at his credit—an arrangement which gives him the nucleus of a fund for setting up his own business if he chooses to do so.

Production activity has been quite successful and has enabled the training centres to produce a large variety of articles which will stand comparison, both the quality and price, with similar ones available in the market. This has been demonstrated by a permanent Exhibition at New Delhi of more than 3,000 articles received from training centres scattered throughout the Dominion. "We were happy to see the

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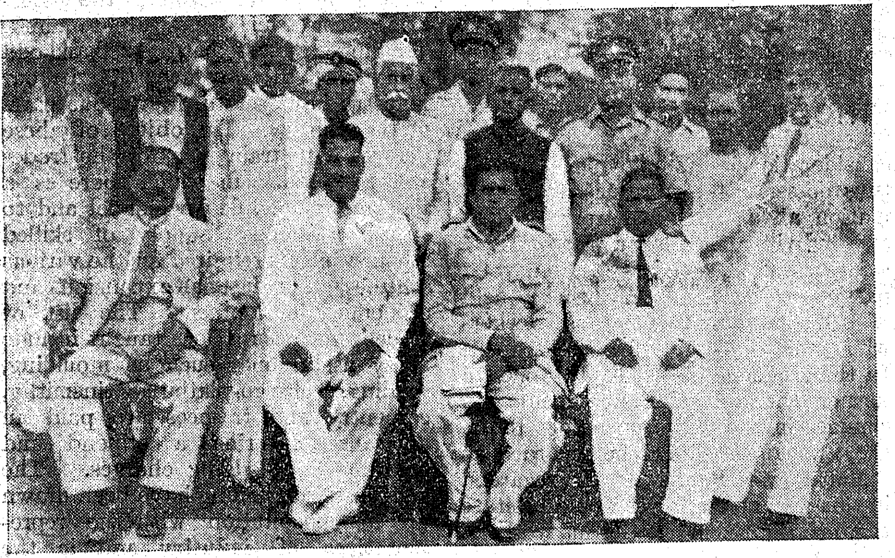
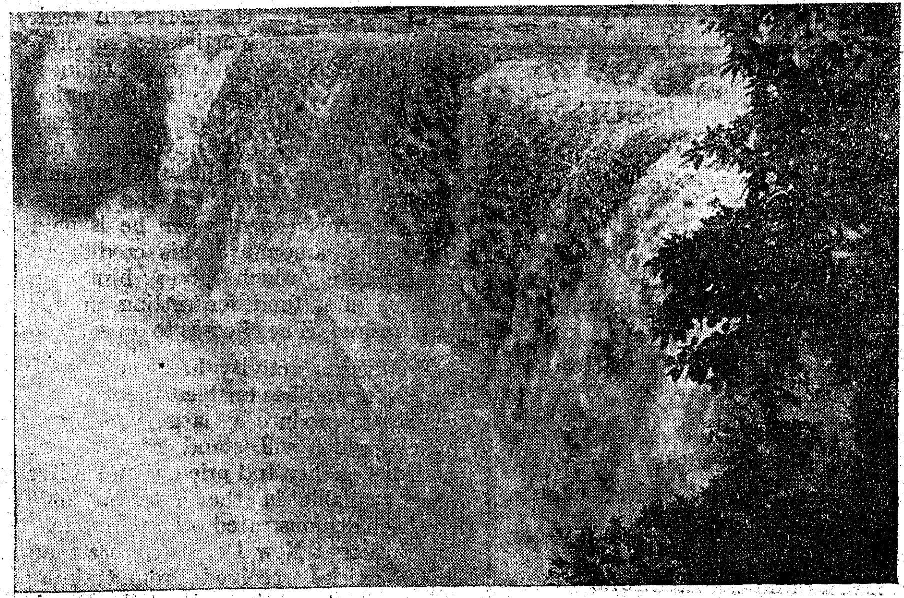
variety and quality of the articles produced," remarked Mr. W. R. Puranik, a member of the Federal Public Service Commission, in a broadcast talk in which he made a reference to this permanent Exhibition. This is a tribute as much to the Training Centres as an acknowledgment of the broader objective of the Employment Exchange.

Highlights of a Tour

Hon'ble Sri B. Gopala Reddi, Minister for Finance and Agency Areas recently toured in Vizagapatam Agency with a view, among other things, to studying the nation-building activities that are being carried on in that part of the province. Sri B. Gopala Reddi had a busy time throughout his tour. At Jeypore he had important consultations with the Hon'ble Minister of Orissa on the subject of creating a prohibition belt around the border areas between Orissa and Madras. He also visited Doduma falls and inspected the progress of work connected with the Machkund Hydro Electric Scheme sponsored jointly by the Governments of Orissa and Madras. The Minister expressed satisfaction at the pakka residential quarters constructed for the staff and the workers. The next stage of the tour was Araku Valley. He inspected the agricultural and horticultural farms, the pilot plots and the irrigation facilities and acquainted himself with the actual progress of the development schemes introduced by the Government in Araku. After inspection the Minister presided over the meeting of the Araku Valley Development Committee. The potentialities of the Araku Valley, it may be mentioned were first discovered as early as 1926–27 and these poten tialities are being progressively tapped by the present Government. Communications and full fledged medical institutions are the immediate needs and the Minister invited the views of the Superintending Engineer, the District Agricultural Officer and the Deputy Director of Agriculture, who were present at the meeting. He opened the Special Agency Conference and in the course of his speech at the Conference referred to the various measures of amelioration under taken by the Government for the agency people including the introduction of prohibition, adult education, crafts and cottage industries. It is worthy of mention that during this tour the Minister covered over 11,000 sq. miles in 4½ days.



Reception given by the Commissioner of Bastar State to Hon'ble Sri B. Gopala Reddi, Minister for Financee



Left.—*Chitrakutam Falls, Jagathalpur, visited by the Hon'ble Finance Minister.* Right—*Hon'ble the Finance Minister Presiding over Agency People's Conference at Araku Valley*

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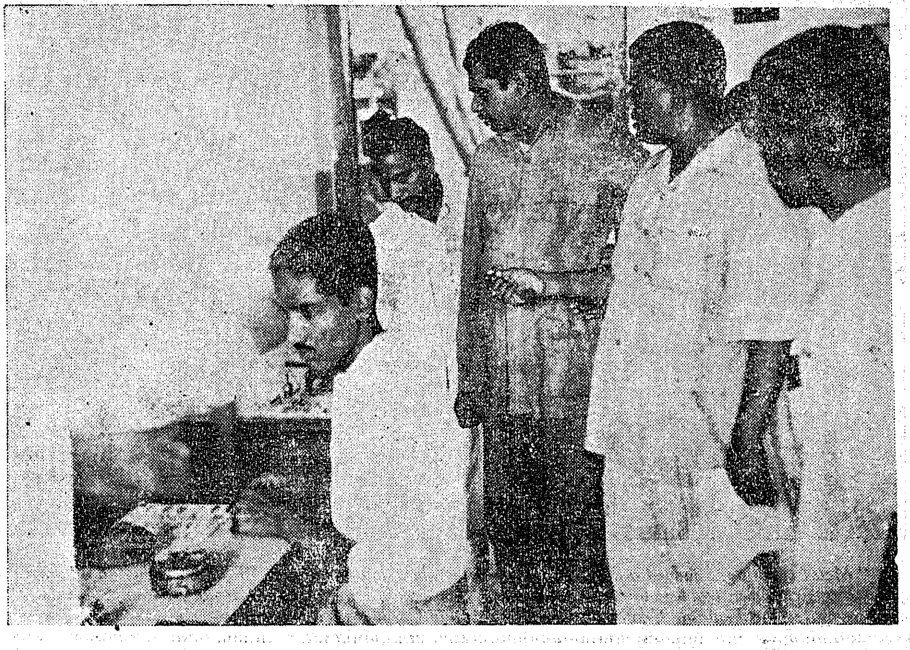
Resettlement Activities



" Watch repairing is a useful trade " observed Sri Gopala Reddi, Finance Minister, when he visited the Training Centre at T'nagar recently

The Hon'ble Minister for Finance recently visited the Resettlement and Employment Exchange at Madras and observed: " India is a country of unemployment both of educated and uneducated men. Our success will depend on how we tackle this problem, both of skilled and unskilled men. I would very much wish to see the departments take full advantage of their free services. I am taking steps to see that the Madras Transport department takes all technical and non-technical men through this department. It is not meant only for the ex-servicemen but also for all civilians including ex-tappers and all people who have been ousted from their jobs or who cannot get employment."

Sri Gopala Reddi examines the articles produced by the trainees, in the show case at the Training Centre, T'nagar.

" The Instruments Mechanic Training Centre at Theagarayanagar is a very useful institution and I am glad to find nearly 247 young ex-servicemen getting training in various sections including watch repairing, radio repairing, precision work and electro-plating."

Housing

Shortage of housing accommodation is one of the major problems of the post-war period everywhere in India, not to speak of other countries. The construction of houses in this country could not keep pace with the population owing to a variety of causes, which need not be gone into here. The Government of Madras have not spared any pains to tide over the difficulties in as quick a manner as possible but in the nature of things, quick solution is not easy. However, through a wide application of the co-operative principle, the Government have been striving to stimulate local initiative in tiding over the house problem. Well has the Royal Indian Commission on Indian Agriculture observed: " It is now accepted that co-operative principle can be used in overcoming most of the obstacles to progress in rural communities." Co-operative societies or townships have been formed in the districts and also Housing Committees. The number of House Building Societies and Townships in the several districts will give an idea of the remarkable progress made in this direction—

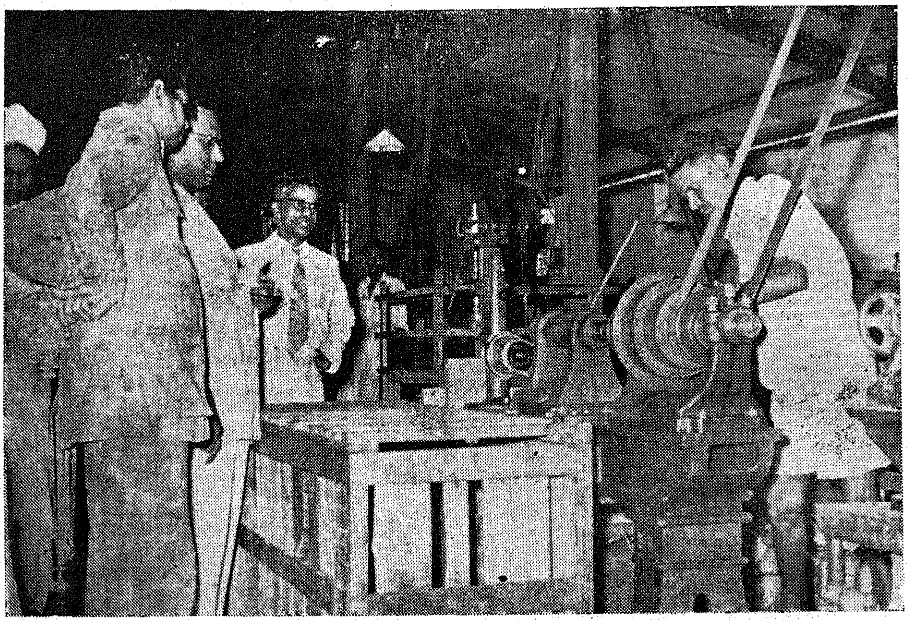
Anantapur 8, North Arcot 2, South Arcot 4, Bellary 5, Chingleput 2, Chittoor 3, Cuddapah 3, East Godavari 2, West Godavari 3, Guntur 10, South Kanara 3, Krishna 2, Mathurai 5, Madras 1, Nellore 4, Ramnad 6, Salem 11, Tanjore 3, Tiruchirapalli 8, Tirunelveli 4, and Vizagapatam 6.

These organizations are functioning actively and it is hoped they will serve to reduce the shortage to the minimum.

> Renunciation is life. Indulgence spells death.
>
> —MAHATMA GANDHI.

People Should Support the Government

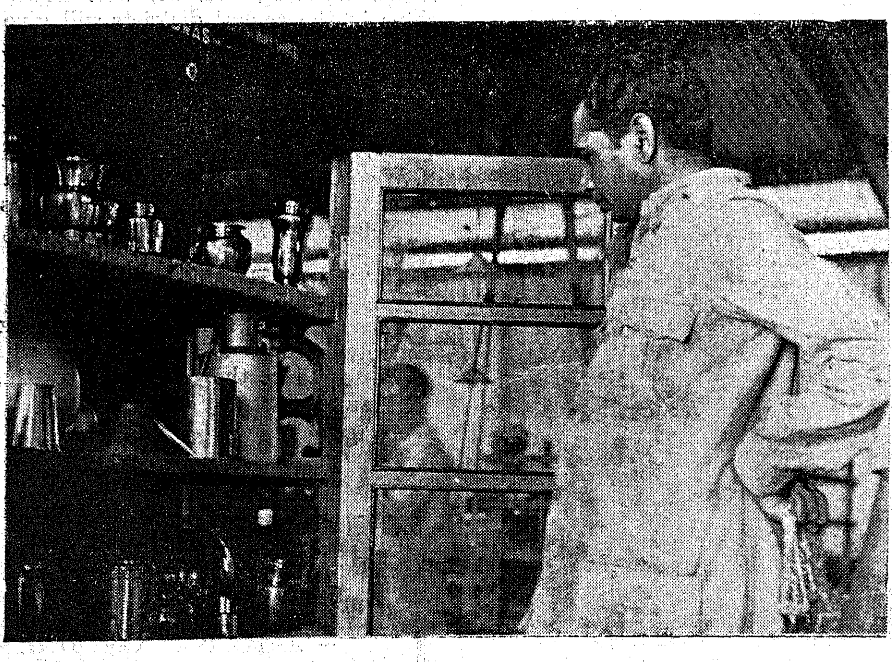
"Future of India depends on the devotion of the people to our Government and I say this not belonging to one party or another but as a representative of the whole of India without difference of party, community or religion. Our glory depends on mutual affection. If we want glory for the whole of India, we must restore mutual affection and guard it as a miser guards his gold", observed His Excellency Sri C. Rajagopalachariar, speaking recently at Udaipur. These words deserve to be read and re-read by everybody. The country is passing through a transition period and at this time, the path of wisdom lies in supporting the Government and implicitly following their directions. It has been said by more than one leader of our country that these are times when points of agreement have to be emphasised and not points of difference. Formidable tasks confront the country and their successful tackling depends upon the co-operation that people ungrudgingly extend to the Government.



" Metal spinning is indeed a difficult art requiring skill and technique. I admire the adaptability of these ex-servicemen trainees to pick up the work", observed Sri B. Gopala Reddi, Finance Minister, when he visited the Training Centre attached to Strathie Co-operative Workshops.

Next to honest work is the habit of respecting other people's feelings. It takes all sorts to make this world and the highest virtue of every citizen is to try to conduct himself so that a mode of life may be evolved by which people of differing relig'ous faiths, occupations and attainments who constitute our society may live together in peace and amity.

—H.E. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI.



" I am glad the trainees are taught to manufacture articles of domestic utility", observed the Finance Minister while inspecting the articles at the Strathie Co-operative Workshops.

More Vegetables to be Grown in Bombay

The Government of Bombay has sanctioned a scheme for extension of vegetable cultivation in the coastal areas of Kanara district, for a period of four years from 1948–49 to 1951–52. The scheme is estimated to cost the Government Rs. 35,000. The expenditure includes Rs. 5,000 on subsidy for seed of vegetables and Rs. 30,000 on subsidy for manure.

Under the scheme, it is proposed to bring an additional area of 1,000 acres of paddy land under vegetable cultivation in the *rabi* season.

There are great possibilities of extension of vegetable cultivation in the coastal areas of Kanara district, since onions, which have recently been introduced on a large-scale basis in this area, are now being exported to Mangalore and other places on the coast, to the value of over Rs. 5,00,000 a year.

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PRESS NOTES, RELEASES, ETC.—A DIGEST

Accounts under Sales Tax Act

The Government have directed that the concession granted in their Order, dated January 16, 1948, that the compliance with the provision in Section 13 of the Madras General Sales Tax Act, requiring the maintenance of accounts in one of the languages of the Province or Hindustani or in English, need not be insisted upon, be continued until further orders. The question of amending the Madras General Sales Tax Act, so as to permit the maintenance of accounts in any language, is under the consideration of the Government.

[October 7]

Dispensaries of Indian Medicine

The Government have directed that municipal councils, district boards and the panchayat boards should invariably obtain their medicinal requirements for their dispensaries of Indian Medicine from pharmacies or medical stores, which are recognized by the Central Board of Indian Medicine.

These orders will apply to pharmacies or medical stores maintained by municipal councils and district boards for the supply of medicinal requirements to their own institutions and also to co-operative pharmacies and stores.

[October 7]

Agricultural Income-tax

It has been reported in certain sections of the Madras Press that legislation for the levy of Agricultural Income-tax in this Province would be taken up only after Zamindaris are taken over and all lands are brought under ryotwari settlement. The position as stated is not correct. The Madras Government have not yet considered the advice tendered by the Government of India recently that Agricultural Income-tax might be introduced as one of the measures to combat the present inflation. That advice is now being taken up for consideration. Whatever might have been the position before the present high level discussions to put down inflation were initiated, the question has to be considered afresh in the light of new developments and the advice tendered by the Government of India. An early decision will be taken irrespective of the question of settlement of zamindari areas.

[October 8]

Growing of Fodder Trees

The Government have approved the proposal to grant, free of assessment for a period of five years in the first instance, poramboke and waste lands for the purpose of growing fodder trees, as recommended by the Fodder and Grazing Committee. The grant is subject to certain conditions.

[October 15]

Madras Record Office in 1947–48

The following are the salient features of the administration of the Madras Record Office, Chittoor, for 1947–48 :—

The year under review was the sixth, in which the records were administered from places in the interior. The arrangements made during the previous year for transferring the records of the East India Company period from Palmaner back to Madras were completed during the year.

Records received.—During the year under review, the records of the departments of the Secretariat for the year 1943 and those of the Board of Revenue for 1937 were received in the Record Office. 27,030 files and 2,348 confidential files were received in the Record Office. 4,405 files were received from the Board of Revenue, besides 10 bundles of spare copies of the Secretariat records of 1943. 2,028 bonds and deeds and other strong almirah documents were also received. All the records received during the year have been catalogued.

Requisitions and searches.—Eighteen thousand three hundred and ninety-three requisitions for records were received. 35,178 records were furnished. There were 578 searches made during the year. 143,290 sheets were mended in the amending section during the year, as against 131,007 during the previous year.

[October 15]

Medical Facilities for Workers

The Madras Government have recently appointed two Civil Surgeons in the office of the Surgeon-General, Madras, as Special Officers in connexion with the enforcement of the Employees' State Insurance Act of 1948, recently passed by the Central Legislature.

These officers are entrusted with the survey of existing medical facilities in all perennial factories of more than 20 workers, which use power. The object is to provide a comprehensive medical relief and benefit programme for all insured workers of a uniform and higher standard than at present obtaining and place it on a secure footing. For this purpose, the siting of the worker (his family and dependents) in groups and distances from the factory and dispensary is essential. An actual census is necessary. It is proposed to mark workers' concentrations of 2,000, 4,000, 8,000 and above round about industrialized areas to provide for a doctor for every 2,000 insured workers.

It will be very valuable, if the information required is supplied as per *pro forma* by volunteer agencies, e.g., employees' association, Labour Welfare Officers and other social workers interested in the survey. A nominal roll of this description, which is almost a census of the industrial population of South India, has other valuable uses from the point of view of statistics, family budgets and economic survey. Persons interested in this work, may consult one or other of the Special Officers, for further particulars, and information supplied will be gratefully received.

[October 18]

Grants for Wells

One of the conditions for the grant of subsidy under the New Well Subsidy Scheme as extended for 1948–49 (details published in the Press Note, dated 7th May 1948) is that the well dug should have not less than 9 feet of water during the height of summer. It is however found that this condition cannot be applied to all areas as the water level in some of the districts is low. The Government have therefore decided that the minimum depth of water during the height of summer should be fixed at 6 feet instead of at

9 feet in all districts except Coimbatore where the minimum depth has been ordered to be fixed at an even lower level, viz., 4 feet.

[October 21]

Agricultural Machinery—Supply of Petrol

The Agricultural Department has informed importers and the public that petrol-driven tractors are extremely expensive to operate and has discouraged those machines on account of the high cost. The supplies of petrol for agricultural purposes have been considerably cut down and so supplies of petrol cannot be granted for tractors using petrol. In view of the acute shortage of petrol and with a view to conserve the available quantities it is considered necessary to stop the issue of petrol for tractors run on petrol. The Government have carefully considered the matter and decided not to issue any petrol to these tractors purchased and registered on or after 1st October 1948 and have instructed the Petrol Rationing Officer accordingly. Petrol for starting and operational purposes for tractors in use before this date will be allowed as usual subject to availability. Tractors running on powerine or kerosene are available and the public are advised to buy these machinery instead of machines operating on petrol entirely.

[October 22]

Prohibition Dramas

The Government have permitted secondary schools to incur expenditure in connexion with the organization of dramas to do propaganda for prohibition, anti-corruption, etc., up to a maximum of Rs. 25 per drama. One drama may be enacted in a village in one year. The expenditure involved in the organization of these dramas will be treated as an approved item of expenditure for purposes of assessment of teaching grants.

[October 22

All men are equal before God. To look down upon a human being because he is not of their faith is a sin before God and man. It is a species of untouchability

—MAHATMA GANDHI.

SERVICE TO THE COMMON MAN

"Our new found independence would be fruitless if it did not embody the ideal of service to the poor and the needy."

—*H.E. the Governor of Madras.*

Coconut Nurseries

In order to supply the public with selected coconut seedlings of guaranteed quality, the Government have sanctioned a comprehensive scheme for the establishment of Government coconut nurseries in the following eight important districts of the Province:—

(1) Nileshwar (South Kanara district), (2) Pattambi (South Malabar district), (3) Pattukkottai (Tanjore district), (4) Palur (South Arcot district) (5) Samalkot (East Godavari district), (6) Maruteru (West Godavari district), (7) Anakapalle (Vizagapatam district) and (8) the Central Farm, Coimbatore, Coimbatore district).

The Government have sanctioned an expenditure not exceeding Rs. 7,25,062 on the scheme for a period of five years.

[October 22]

Stage Carriages and Government Servants

It has been represented that many Government officers in the mufassal are in the habit of requiring buses to be taken either to their residences or to their offices to pick them up when they wish to travel. The Government desire to inform the public that this practice is irregular and orders have been issued to all Government officers to discontinue the practice forthwith wherever it is in vogue.

The Government desire to inform the bus operators that it is their duty to instruct their employees not to take buses outside the prescribed routes to the offices or residences of Government officers.

Any case of a Government official requiring a bus to be taken to his residence or office to pick him up should be reported to his immediate superior officer for action against that official, and to the Road Transport Officer concerned for action against the permit holder if the bus is so taken in contravention of Government's order.

[October 26]

WANTED

TAMIL TYPE-WRITERS

Intending sellers are requested to contact "the Director of Information and Publicity, Fort St. George, Madras," with necessary particulars.

Rural Exhibition, Alur, Bellary.—Stall opened by the Bellary District Industrial Museum Association.

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PROHIBITION

Ameliorative Activities

The following is a brief summary of the reports received on ameliorative activities in the prohibition districts :—

North Arcot.—Prohibition meetings were addressed by the Special Development Officer. Firka tournaments and village sports took place. With a view to improving poultry in villages, further measures were taken by distributing hens and eggs in some villages. Two co-operative societies for the manufacture of jaggery have been organised. Ex-tappers are proposed to be helped through these societies. Hundi boxes were distributed. Thrift days were celebrated. There was a conference under the auspices of the Firka Association in one place in which opportunity was taken by the Officers of the Agricultural Department and others to speak on subjects of interest to the people.

Sports, Dramas, Bhajanas, Kalakshepams, Thrift day celebrations, Exhibitions are some of the important features of Ameliorative Activities during the period.

Guntur.—Village sports took place as usual. A drama was staged. Thrift day celebrations took place. A rural uplift camp and sports centre were formed in one place.

Nellore.—Hundi boxes were distributed. Bhajanas and kalakshepams took place. Firka tournments were held. A hundi collection day was observed. A rural housing scheme was introduced in one place. A co-operative society for khadi spinners and weavers was organised in another place.

Anantapur.—Sports were conducted as usual. Betterment Committees were formed and six night schools were opened. Firka tournaments took place.

Nilgiris.—A social drama was staged in one place, in which ex-addicts took prominent part.

Malabar.—Night schools were started in some places. One grama sangam conducted a spinning demonstration. A tea club was declared open in one place. There were also meetings of ex-tappers. Prohibition day was celebrated. A library and a reading-room were declared open in one place. Thrift day was celebrated.

South Kanara.—Two Jaggery Manufacturing Societies were organised. A grama sangam was formed. A drama was staged in one place. One grama sangam has resolved to construct a community hall. A reading-room and a library were opened in one place.

Bellary.—A rural exhibition was conducted in one place. A gymnasium was opened in another. In another village sports also took place. Dramas were staged and a night school was opened.

Madura.—Sports took place as usual. Thrift day was celebrated. Substantial savings by ex-addicts are reported. Bhajanas were held. One grama sangam has opened a night school. Another has repaired a path. Hundi boxes were distributed to ex-addicts.

Photo was taken when the Inauguration of Prohibition was celebrated at Devakottai. Hon'ble Sri Madhava Menon presided.

Wives of ex-addicts giving a Kummi performance in Tirunelveli.

Tiruchirappalli.—A milk supply co-operative society was organised in one place. Harijans observed cleanliness day. New grama sangams were formed. Hundi boxes were distributed. Sports were conducted. An ex-tapper has opened a tea stall n one place. There was a rural exhibition in which the Agricultural Department exhibited their tools and implements. Handloom co-operative weavers' societies also exhibited their goods. One milk supply union opened a milk bar.

Salem.—Sports were conducted. Thrift day was celebrated. Firka tournaments were held. Public meetings were organised.

Chittoor.—Grama sangams were formed. Rural games were conducted. Dramas were staged and bhajanas were performed. Thrift days were observed. Rural uplift work was carried on briskly. Reading circles were formed. Repairs to roads were done. First-aid medicine chests were introduced. Street cleaning drives were organised. Libraries were formed. Tree planting was done. Construction of community centres was started.

Kurnool.—An Industrial exhibition was held in one place. Substantial savings are reported from ex-addicts. Some of them have utilissed their savings for improving their houses. Others have purchased cows and bulls or buffaloes. A co-operative society for fishermen has been formed. Harikatha performances also took place.

Tanjore.—A firka association was started in one place.

Coimbatore.—The Collector visited a number of villages in connection with the promotion of rural uplift activities. Rural sports were held in many places.

Cuddapah.—Inter-village sports took place. Public meetings were also conducted.

> All countries which have become civilised have done so by reducing the number of citizens employed in agriculture and putting them on other more profitable occupations.
>
> *Sri M. Visveswarayya.*

DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Irrigation Department

During September 1948, the Government sanctioned the following Irrigation and Flood Protection Schemes :—

Krishna district.—The Government sanctioned the scheme for providing irrigation facilities to a block of about 1,310 acres of dry lands in the Bandar West Block in Krishna district. The scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 57,000 for works or Rs. 74,610 inclusive of direct and indirect charges. The additional area benefited by the scheme is expected to yield about 340 to 520 tons of rice annually.

2. The Government also sanctioned the scheme for providing irrigation facilities to about 1,200 acres of the Majeru Lankapalli dry land under the Bhimanadhi channel, in the Krishna Eastern Delta. This scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 46,500 for works or Rs. 58,970 including direct and indirect charges. The additional area benefited by the scheme is expected to yield an additional quantity of 382 tons of rice valued at Rs. 95,000.

Chingleput district.—The Government sanctioned the first stage of the work of restoration of the abandoned flood banks of the Araniar river, consisting of the restoration of the left flood bank of the river from below the railway bridge in the village-limit of Chinnavakkanam down to below Kammavaripalayam (Perumbedu) to a length of about 3¾ miles in Ponneri taluk, Chingleput district. The first stage of the work is estimated to cost Rs. 1,85,000 for works or Rs. 2,40,890 including direct and indirect charges. The question of sanctioning the remaining three stages of the work will be considered after the effects of the first stage of the work are definitely known. When the flood banks are restored it is expected that the enormous losses sustained by the villages of Kammavaripalayam, Lingasamudram, Aladu, Pralayambakkam, etc., during heavy floods in the Araniar river, can be prevented and breaches of several irrigation tanks avoided.

Ramnad district.—The Government sanctioned the scheme for the construction of a scouring sluice at the left flank of Ayan Kollengondan Periakulam tank in Srivilliputtur taluk, Ramnad district and for forming a cross bund with inlet sluices connecting the road culvert and the scouring sluice. The scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 18,800 for works or Rs. 24,583 including direct and indirect charges. This will check the heavy silting up of tank-bed which now occurs and will also bring 30 acres under second-crop cultivation.

Tirunelveli district.—The Government sanctioned the scheme for the restoration of Sivalapperi tank in Tirunelveli district. The scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 3,55,000 for works or Rs. 4,81,750 including direct and indirect charges. An extent of about 550 acres will be brought under cultivation. The additional area benefited by the scheme is expected to yield 275 tons of rice valued at Rs. 68,750.

South Arcot district.—The Government approved the proposal for the formation of new flood banks on the right margin of the Ponniar river from Grand South Trunk Road to Aviyanur head sluice and from Kavanur spring channel head sluice to Wallajah channel head sluice. This work, which is estimated to cost Rs. 22,000, is very necessary, as otherwise the ravages of floods would continue to affect wider and wider areas of arable lands year by year.

Madras Agriculturists' Relief Act

Second quarter of 1948

The number of cases under the Madras Agriculturists' Relief Act disposed of by civil courts in the Province for the quarter ending 30th June 1948 was 158. For the period between 22nd March 1938 (when the Act came into force) and 30th June 1948 (covering 124 months) the total number of cases disposed of was 208,593.

The amount involved in applications disposed of under sections 8, 9, 13, 19 and 19-A of the Act for the quarter ending 30th June 1948 was 95,423. The amount involved in such applications for the period between 22nd March 1938 and 30th June 1938 stood at Rs. 9,86,71,315.

The amount scaled down by the courts on the applications of indebted agriculturists for the quarter ending 30th June 1948 was Rs. 41,428. For the period between 22nd March 1938 and 30th June 1948, the amount scaled down was Rs. 4,73,54,382.

The amount of reduction by scaling down of debts for the quarter ending 30th June 1948 was Rs. 53,995. For the period between 22nd March 1938 and 30th June 1948, the amount of reduction by scaling down debts was Rs. 5,13,16,933 and the percentage of reduction is 52.

The number of cases pending at the close of the quarter ending 30th June 1948 was 279.

The figures given above exclude the number of cases voluntarily settled by parties without recourse to courts.

Chemical Examiner's Department

The following are the salient features of the administration of the Chemical Examiner's Department for the year 1947 :—

One thousand eight hundred and thirty-one cases were examined in the Chemical Examiner's Department during the year under review, as against 1,781 in 1946. Five hundred and fifty-eight cases of human poisoning were examined. Poison was detected in 235 cases. The vast majority of the poisons detected were organic poisons. The commonest poisons detected were datura in 42 cases, opium in 29 cases and oleander in 26 cases. Twenty-eight cases of animal poisoning were received for test, of which poison was detected in ten cases.

Nine hundred and ninety-one stain cases were examined in 1947, as against 1,021 in 1946. There were 170 miscellaneous medico-legal cases, as against 107 in 1946.

General analyses.—Eighty-four articles were examined under this heading during the year under report, as against 93 articles in 1946. These comprised of 74 articles for Madras Government and ten articles for private parties.

Public Health Administration during 1947

The public health of the province was on the whole satisfactory.

During the year under review, the birth rate increased from 31·62 in 1946 to 32·72 per thousand of the estimated mid-year population in 1947. The death rate also increased from 18·88 in 1946 to 20·06 in 1947. The rate of infantile mortality showed a slight decline from 146·88 in 1946 to 146·76 in 1947. The rate of maternal mortality increased from 7·94 in 1946 to 8·34 in 1947.

There were 12,743 deaths from cholera, 2,650 from small-pox, 2,718 from plague, 2,58,207 from fevers, 75,519 from dysent ry and diarrhoea in 1947, as against 753, 7,923, 2,254, 248,663 and 62,621 respectively in 1946.

Twenty-two maternity and child welfare centres were opened during the year. The establishment of creches for the use of children of the working class mothers during day time received special impetus during the year. A total grant of Rs. 1,69,214 was paid by the Government to local bodies for maternity and child welfare work during 1946–47.

The Prevention of Adulteration Act was in force in 236 local areas. The percentage of adulterated samples in 1947 was 46·7 as aginst 46 in the previous year.

Four million eight hundred and eighty-one thousand three hundred and seventy-five vaccinations were done during the year as against 8,584,105 in 1946.

Instructions have also been issued by the Government to see that cases of default or delay in the registration of births and deaths in villages do not occur.

Home Department

Motor Transport

Nine petrol buses were registered during September bringing the total number of vehicles to 298 of which 25 are Diesel buses.

Revised time-tables are being prepared for all the routes. The important feature of the new time-tables is the reduction of dead or unremunerative mileage to the minimum. On some of the routes, e.g., Express service routes and Routes 18 and 56, the revised time-tables have already been introduced. New types of tickets with stage numbers instead of the names of the various halts have been introduced on Express service routes and help diversion of buses from one route to another to cope with traffic conditions on various routes.

To relieve traffic congestion during peak hours the number of standing passengers have been increased from 8 to 10 and 10 to 12 in short wheel base buses and 12 to 15 in long wheel base buses. This was given effect to from the afternoon of 17th September 1948.

Regarding special trips, one bus was placed at the disposal of the Linguistic Provinces Commission from 4th September 1948. On 2nd and 3rd September 1948 special buses were arranged for the members of the Provincial Municipal Chairmen's conference held in Madras. Two buses were also placed at the disposal of the Deputy High Commissioner for the United Kingdom on 10th and 11th September 1948 for transporting European and American evacuees from Hyderabad to various places in the city. Buses were also hired to many public and educational institutions for excursions and other purposes.

On 23rd September 1948 (Krithigai Festival) special arrangements were made to run 4 buses—2 from Gemini Studios to Vadapalani temple and two from Kodambakkam Railway Station to Vadapalani temple.

Experimental queue rails have been erected at Parrys Corner for route No. 1. It has since been decided to erect queue rails at three more important terminii, viz., 3, 7, 15 for the present.

Firka Development Department

A synopsis of the important activities in the firkas and centres selected for intensive Rural Reconstruction work during September 1948 is given below :—

A training centre for Grama Sevaks of the Tamilnad area known as the 'Tamilnad Grama Sevak Vidyalayam' has been opened with effect from 6th September 1948 at Kallupatty in Tirumangalam Firka (Madura district). About 40 Grama Sevaks, including a few candidates from outside, are being trained in various subjects of constructive work pertaining to the villages for a period of three months. The training centre will work for an aggregate of nine months in this year (1948) and for a similar period in 1949, but the training in the second year

will be for the same groups as in the first year. It is estimated that about 120 Grama Sevaks and voluntary candidates will be trained in the first year each for a period of three months and for a further period of three months in the second year.

The scheme for training of construction workers forms an integral part of the general plan of firka development.

Yerragondapalem.—Village sanitation work was attended to regularly. The Centre Khadi Officer and his staff completed their intensive propaganda in various villages by holding demonstrations in spinning and carding. The Firka Development Staff rendered their assistance in this behalf.

Proddatur Firka.—A drinking water well at Chowdur was completed. Three more well works were also completed during the month. In addition three culverts were constructed near Thallamapuram village on the way to Kallur. About 500 new books were added to the Central Library in the Firka.

Kurnool Firka.—In Gargeyapuram village metal roads to a length of 7 furlongs and 20 yards were laid. The entire work was got done by the villagers themselves without any financial aid from the Government. Two night schools for adults, one at Joharapuram and the other at Peddapad were opened. The Hon'ble Sri B. Gopala Reddi opened the adult school at Joharapuram and distributed slates and books to adults. An industrial exhibition was held in Joharapuram village wherein the articles prepared in the industrial centres were exhibited. The exhibition was opened by the Collector of Kurnool. Rural sports were also conducted in Joharapuram and Peddapad villages. (Photos taken on the occasions are enclosed for publication in the *Madras Information* if necessary.)

Santhanuthalapad.—Twelve well works were completed.

Payyanur.—One mat-makers' co-operative society for Harijans was got registered.

Pulianlcurichi.—Eighteen credit co-operative societies were organized during the month.

Veerapandy.—During the month three branch libraries were opened. A new minor panchayat board for Naikarapatti village was constituted.

Kalasapakkam.—One well work was completed. Two stud bulls were stationed, one at Elathur and another at Settambatu. Ten branch libraries were opened. The erection of a storage shed for the firka has been completed. Arrangements for the opening of an agricultural sub-depot are under way.

Alur Firka.—Night schools for adults at Alur, Virupapuram and Nitravatti were opened during the month. Avenue trees were planted.

Palladam.—The Hon'ble the Minister for Firka Development visited Semmipalayam and Rengasamudram on 1st September 1948.

Polavaram.—Breaches in the Kothuru tank were closed.

Hindupur.—Branch libraries were opened in eight villages of the Firka —A night school was started.

Saliamangalam.—The Hon'ble the Minister for Firka Development visited the firka during the month.

Musiri Firka.—The Hon'ble the Minister for Firka Development visited the firka during the month.

Pendurthi.—A co-operative society was organized. Tree-planting work was vigorously undertaken.

Public Service Commission in 1947—48

The Madras Public Service Commission conducted the usual departmental examinations and competitive examinations for recruitment to various Provincial and Subordinate Services.

For the common competitive examination for appointment to the Madras Ministerial Service and the Judicial Ministerial Service there was a larger number of applicants than in the previous year.

The number of candidates available for selection from among the Harijans, the Muslims, the Christians, the Backward Hindus and the Non-Brahman (Hindus) were less than the numbers required from those communities. Candidates from the Brahman community were therefore selected in advance of their turns.

For the posts of typists and steno-typists there were a less number of applicants than the number required and the number of candidates who obtained qualifying marks (45/50) for selection was far less than the number required for such appointment. In view of the paucity of candidates for these classes of appointments the Government at the instance of the Commission reduced the minimum qualifying marks prescribed for this recruitment to 25 and this enabled the selection of an additional 113 candidates who possessed the required technical qualification in typewriting. Even then the number selected fell short of the total number required by 61. Of the candidates selected for the Madras Ministerial Service two were women.

For the posts for which security should be deposited there was practically no competition as only three candidates applied for admission to the competitive examination for 32 required. Only one secured qualifying marks and he was selected.

Nine candidates for 32 required applied for appointment to posts of clerks, etc., in offices and institutions solely managed by or intended for women. Only eight appeared for the examination and three secured qualifying marks and were selected.

During the year under report, appointments and promotions made by certain appointing authorities in two cases were in contravention of the statutory rules. The irregularity in respect of one was rectified at the instance of the Commission and the irregularity in respect of the other appointment was brought to the notice of the appointing authority for rectification.

The Commission selected candidates for direct recruitment by interview for 25 classes of posts in the Provincial and Subordinate Services (as against 23 in the previous year). The Commission dealt with 41 references relating to recruitment to Provincial Services by transfer from the corresponding subordinate services (as against 33 in the previous year).

Appeals, proposals for disciplinary action, etc.—The Commission advised on 19 appeals, 13 memorials, 15 proposals for disciplinary action, 6 cases relating to reimbursement of the cost of defence incurred by public servants and 17 references relating to the grant of pension (as against 26 appeals, 10 memorials, 7 proposals for disciplinary action, 2 cases relating to the reimbursement of the cost of defence incurred by public servants and 13 references relating to the grant of pension in the previous year).

Recruitment of candidates with war service.—The recruitment of candidates with war service for the "reserved" vacancies was continued during the year and with one or two exceptions has since been completed. As many as 5,393 candidates were summoned for interview for the last two batches of selections for the subordinate services

done during the year, the number selected being 2,337.

As regards the Provincial Services, the number of candidates summoned for interview was 2,223 and the number selected was 256.

New scheme of selections by means of a combined written and oral test.—The Government issued orders in March 1948 in consultation with the Commission that the new scheme of selections by means of a combined written and oral test for direct recruitment to the non-technical Provincial and Subordinate Services should be brought into force with effect from 1948–49. According to this scheme the written test precedes the oral test. The examination for the Provincial Services is of the B.A. (Hons.) standard; and that for the Subordinate Services [except in the case of the Madras Fisheries Subordinate Service (Sub-Inspectors) and in the case of Harijans for appointment as Junior Co-operative Inspectors and Reserve Sub-Registrars] is of the B.A. standard. The standard of examination for recruitment in the excepted cases is the Intermediate standard. The Commission has since taken steps to hold the examinations in 1948–49.

Electricity Department

During September 1948, six extensions costing over Rs. 10,000 and less than Rs. 30,000 each were sanctioned by the Chief Engineer at an estimated total cost of Rs. 1,23,420.

2. Supply to 1,239 domestic services, 152 agricultural services and 30 industrial services was given during the month.

3. Work on the major schemes and extensions continued to progress.

Resettlement

Co-operative Motor Transport Society

A Co-operative Motor Transport Society for the benefit of ex-servicemen has been started at Vijayavada recently. This is intended to employ such of those ex-servicemen as had served in the Defence Services as motor drivers, cleaners, fitters, etc.. Twenty lorries have been allotted to this society and they will be on the road soon.

Oppurtunity was taken by the Joint Registrar of Co-operative Societies (Re-settlement) to explain the various Co-operative schemes of the Government such as Co-operative land colonization societies, co-operative workshops, etc. and pointed out that co-operative motor transport societies were one form of co-operative enterprise intended for the employment of suitable ex-servicemen; 289 chasis were purchased from the Directorate of Military Disposals and the Postwar Services Reconstruction Fund Committee of which H.E. the Governor is the Chairman and the Hon'ble Dr. T. S. S. Rajan is one of the members, has given an interest-free loan of Rs. 20 lakhs for the purchase of these vehicles. There were already 12 such societies in the Province one each in the Districts of Vizagatpatam, Guntur, Madras, South Aroct, North Aroct, Tanjore, Tiruchirappalli, Salem, Coimbatore, Madura, Tinnevelly and Malabar and this is the thirteenth to be formed. The Joint Registrar explained to the members that the Society is different from a capitalistic enterprise, that being co-operative in character, the members themselves are owners of the vehicles and are responsible for the administration of its affairs. The members can fix and regulate their pay and allowances and other matters connected with their service conditions. There are no employer-employee relations in a Society of this character and there is, therefore, no need for friction or conflict of any kind. He said that the conduct of the members in co-operative institutions should be guided by the principles of truth, honesty and trust-worthiness and finally exhorted the members to so conduct themselves as to bring credit to themselves and their society and make it a permanent and successful enterprise.

Labour Department

The Honorary Secretary, Southern India Tanners and Dealers Association, Ranipet, has reported that the workers in Fazal Bahai Dala Sait, Tanners, Ranipet, struck work from 1st October 1948 without notice. The Commissioner of Labour has advised the President of the District Tannery Labour Union, Ranipet, to call off the strike as it is illegal to strike work during the pendency of proceedings before the Industrial Tribunal, Madura.

The President of the Tiruchirappalli District Motor Transport Workers' Union, Tiruchirappalli, issued a notice of strike, dated 13th September 1948, to the Management of the Tiruchirappalli-Srirangam Transport Company Ltd., Tiruchirappalli, intimating that the workers would go on strike from 29th September 1948, if their demands for implementation of the award of the Industrial Tribunal on Motor Transport Industry, etc., were not conceded by that date. The Labour Officer, Tiruchirappalli settled the dispute on 24th September 1948 and the notice of strike was withdrawn.

The workers of Sri Rajagopal Transport Company, Perambalur, Tiruchirappalli district, struck work at 6 a.m. on 5th October 1948, as a protest against the dismissal of some workers and non-implementation of the award. Sri A. Viswanatha Iyer, a local Vakil, intervened and brought about a settlement of the dispute. The workers resumed work at 3 p.m. the same day (5th October 1948).

[First Fortnight of October 1948]

Miscellaneous

Food and Fisheries Schemes

"We must afford the ryots as much facilities for irrigation as possible, so that they may be convinced that they are getting the maximum advantage for the revenues they are paying the Government. Every limb of the Government, from the highest to the lowest official, should exert itself to help the people in growing more food in these days of food scarcity."

Thus observed the Hon'ble Premier, presiding over the adjourned session of the Second Conference for the review of Grow More Food Schemes at Ministerial level, held in the Cabinet room of the Secretariat in the afternoon of October 21. The Conference was attended, among others, by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, Director of Industries and Commerce, First Member of the Board of Revenue, Secretaries to the Government in the Public Works and Development Departments, the Deputy Secretary, Revenue Department and the Regional Food Commissioner in charge. The Hon'ble Minister for Public Works, the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and the Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development were present and took part in the discussion.

Marine Survey Needed.—The Director of Industries and Commerce gave a

comprehensive review of the fisheries schemes undertaken by the department during 1946–47 and 1947–48. A total quantity of 709,246 lb. of fish was caught during 1947–48, as against 661,211 lb. during the previous year. Though there was a slight increase in the production in 1947–48, the target fixed could not be reached, owing to the failure of the monsoon and the fact that all the eight motor fishing vessels and the fisheries vessel could not be made full use of. The Director of Industries and Commerce said that for the successful catching and marketing of fish, systematic and detailed marine survey had to be undertaken. The Hon'ble Premier stressed the importance of vigilant supervision of work connected with fisheries schemes. It would be better, he added, if certain targets of catches were fixed for fisheries officers. He appealed to the Fisheries Department to see that in these days of food scarcity, more and more fish are caught and marketed.

Discussion then centred round irrigation facilities in the province, and methods to improve them. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation said that the total number of irrigation schemes sanctioned was 64. One hundred and twenty channels had been repaired under Kudimaramath scheme in Bellary, Cuddapah, Anantapur, South Arcot and Tanjore districts. The Hon'ble Premier pointed out that spring channels should be given preference in repairing, as they would help in producing three crops.

Continuing his survey of work done, the Chief Engineer said that about 450,000 acres of additional land was brought under irrigation during the Grow More Food drive. Though his department wanted to extend irrigation facilities to the ryots, sometimes water was not available, and if available, was not adequate. The Chief Engineer pointed that the rules framed by the Government stipulated that unlese additional food production was shown, expenditure on the schemes should not be undertaken. This acted as a handicap in undertaking certain irrigation works, as the additional production was not always foreseeable with any amount of certainty. The Hon'ble Minister for Public Works concurred with this view.

The Hon'ble Premier appreciated the difficulty pointed out by the Chief Engineer, and said "Government would consider, on their merits, cases, where rules could be relaxed or waived." He exhorted the officials to do everything in their power to ease the present difficult food situation in the province, and that an irrigation project need no longer be expected to show a direct economic return on the capital outlay, so that the common man might be convinced that the popular Government was doing all that was humanly possible.

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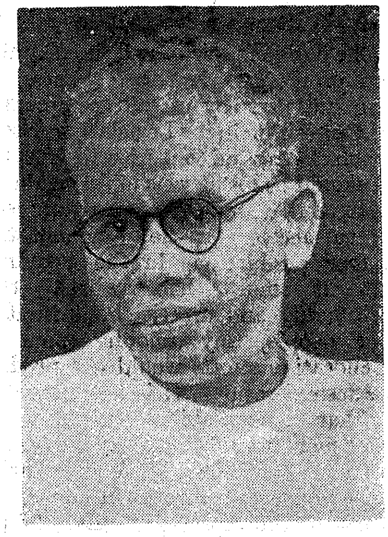
TOPICS OF THE DAY

Prohibition

"Drink is an accepted evil and we shall root it out once for all"



Note.—This Province is completely dry now. Thus the Government have speedily translated into action one of the cherished ideals of Gandhiji. It is an achievement of which the Province may well be proud. Recently in the course of a broadcast Hon'ble Sri M. Bakthavatsalam dealt with the question of prohibition in some of its important aspects.

"The United States of America are perhaps responsible for the word 'Prohibition' and they have been the pioneers, though unsuccessful, in effecting by law Prohibition. But it was Mahatma Gandhi who made us realize that the revenue derived to the State from Excise was gained money and that we should close all liquor and toddy shops. If picketing of these shops was enjoined by our leader and resorted to by Congress workers and if that right had been secured by Gandhiji as one of the terms of the Gandhi-Irwin truce, it is but proper that Congress Governments should take up the implementation of this important item of the Congress constructive programme, even at considerable loss of the Provincial revenues which it involved. The retreat from Prohibition in the United States of America, however, should warn sponsors of Prohibition in this country. But the atmosphere in India and the lead given by Mahatma Gandhi leave no doubt as to the propriety of this great reform. Madras, under the leadership of the present Governor-General gave the lead in 1937 and enacted the law of Prohibition. The two difficulties that present themselves in giving effect to Prohibition have had to be met. We have before us the lesson of the U.S.A. in the matter of enforcement of Prohibition. And we have had to solve the financial difficulty. Excise revenue is a big slice of the Provincial Revenue. The total excise revenue of this Province before the reintroduction of Prohibition was 16½ crores of rupees. And this has been an easy and elastic source of revenue. While land revenue which entails large expenditure on establishment for collection is criticised as a burden on the producing ryot and the Income Tax and the Sales Tax present the problem of checking evasion, the Excise Revenue has been rapidly growing and has been automatically getting into the Treasury of the State. As soon as Prohibition was withdrawn from the four districts where it had been in force during the Rajaji Ministry, Excise Revenue showed phenomenal rise. It was really a warning and a lesson. Prohibition was claimed a success in those districts till it was withdrawn, and when toddy and liquor shops were reopened, the people of those areas resorted back to drink with greater zeal. Even after the reintroduction of Prohibition in those districts, people who had reverted to drink after a lapse are reported to be persistent and resorting in large numbers to illicit manufacture and drinking. The people everywhere demand Prohibition because they realize it can only be enforced by law. When the constituted State keeps open the shops and seeks to sell intoxicants to people, how can the temptation be resisted? And when there is relapse to this habit, it is more difficult to get out of it. The Government of Madras therefore decided to quicken the pace of Prohibition in this Province and will be enforcing Prohibition throughout the area from 2nd October next. This will indeed a unique achievement sought and welcomed by the masses. From 2nd October ours will be a land of no drink unheard of in our long glorious history. Ramarajya is hailed as a land of no wants. In order to achieve that great ideal, we shall leave this want of drink and it is for us to make this want absolutely disappear from the minds of the people. Drink is an accepted evil and we shall root it out once for all from 2nd October. In spite of the preaching of great men, it has not been possible to resist the temptation of drink, and let it be to the credit of this generation that we have achieved and secured the metamorphosis of this land to the benefit of us and posterity. Nay, let our Province show the way to the rest of India and the world! We indeed owe it to the world's greatest leader to free us from the two demons of Political slavery and drink. And it is but fitting that we should celebrate the first birthday of Mahatma Gandhi after his physical departing from us, by rooting out from our land the evil of drink. Gandhiji must indeed be very pleased with this achievement. May his blessing be showered on us.

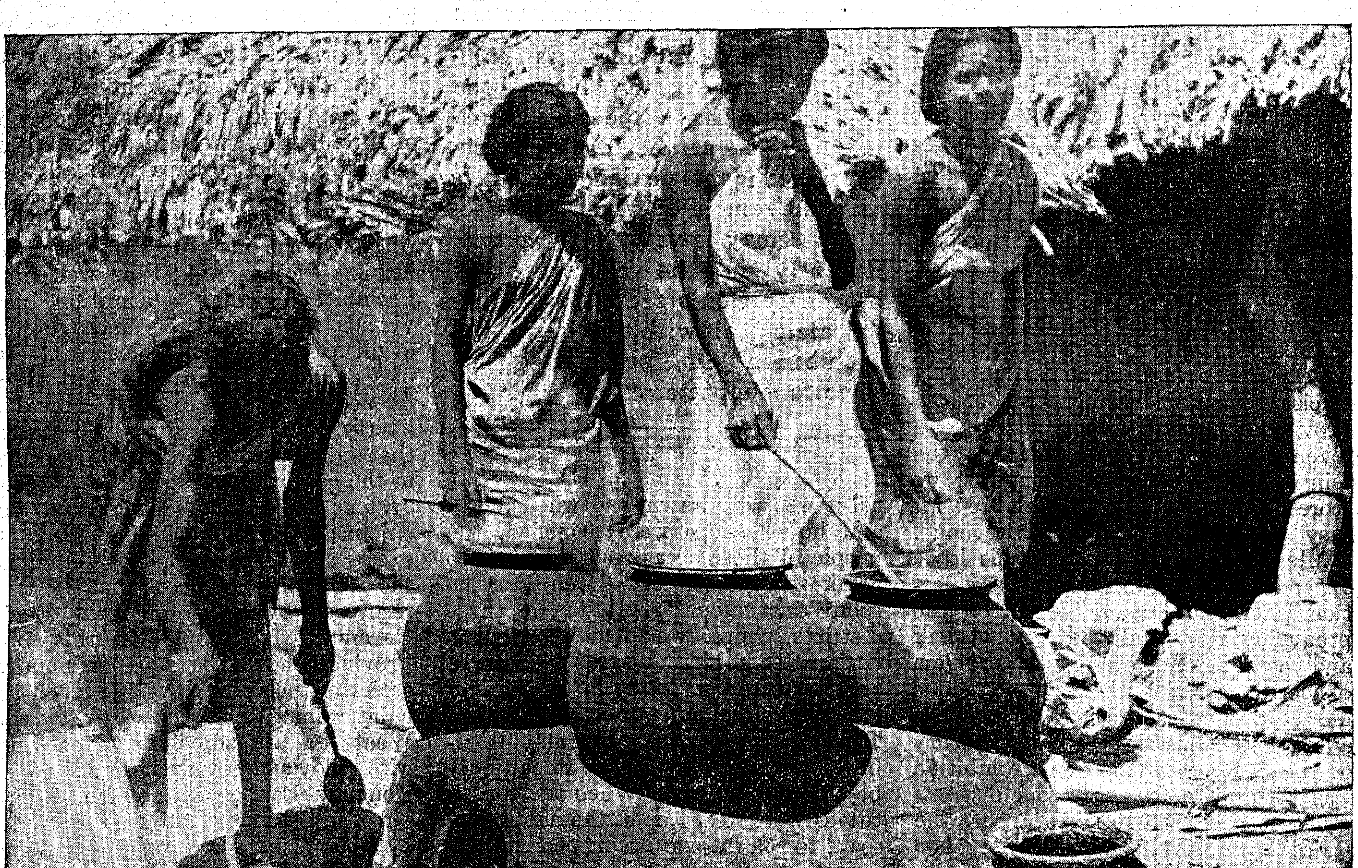
Critics are not wanting

In spite of the universal approbation of Prohibition, we are not wanting in critics, who perhaps with all their best intentions, dub us as mad people indulging in socio-political experiments. Although the masses who have been helpless victims should be welcoming Prohibition as their redemption, individuals who have been indulging in drink as an innocent harmless, but pleasant habit, may resent this interference by the State with individual liberty. But even they will realize that individual liberty is to be respected in the general interests of the society. Just as the great preachers saw and enjoined on us, drinking leads to excesses which ruin society. As against the 16½ crores of rupees that could be recovered by Government as Excise Revenue, the people of this poor Province should be wasting hundred crores of their wealth annually on this habit ruining themselves day by day. What use are ameliorative measures with toddy and arrack shops kept open? You may rise the wages of the labourer, but if his budget could only be revised by a corresponding increase of expenditure for drink how can the standard of living be raised? The eminent economist whose guidance was sought by the

Government of India in the matter of checking inflation is reported to have advised the postponement of Prohibition as one of the measures that may be adopted. This reported advice would be sufficient to the critics of Prohibition. If the introduction of Prohibition should leave some extra money in the hands of the people, Government do consider us undoubtedly worthwhile sacrificing their own easy sources of revenue. And we can also avoid inflation by adopting suitable anti-inflationary measures which would be in the interests of the people. The enforcement of Prohibition is accompanied in the ameliorative side, by the Small Savings Scheme. The idea of thrift is to be inculcated in the people who will be enabled to save the money they have been throwing on drink and facilities are organized for distribution of hundi boxes to the former addicts, and inducing them to save the money that is redeemed from drink and utilize it for raising the standard of living. This inducement for saving would itself serve as a counter-attraction to the ex-addicts. The National Savings Scheme organized by the Government of India presents itself at a very opportune time. If the people who are redeemed from the demon of drink would only be made interested in the National Savings Scheme, we would be having economic benefits of Prohibition while we would be checking inflation at the same time. It is hoped that the beneficiaries of Prohibition would be persuaded also to benefit by the National Savings Scheme.

Complete Prohibition

The early completion of the Prohibition programme in this Province has been criticized by certain members of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly on the ground that with the revenue we should be losing we should be able to hasten our development programme so as to accelerate the augmentation of food production in the Province. But it must be realized that with toddy and arrack shops inviting poor people, any amount spent on ameliorative efforts would not produce the desired result. It is not correct to say that the availability of drink to the poor man would make up to some extent the deficiency in food. Rather the indulgence in drink will add to the misery of the starving family. If the family should be able to save their drink money on account of the introduction of Prohibition, that should really help securing some food in spite of the sabotage. Further it must be remembered that the Sales Tax was introduced in this Province by the Rajaji Ministry with the specific object of augmenting the loss of the Excise Revenue, and this Taxation which will be yielding 12 crores of rupees in the year will go a long way towards the revenue coming from Excise. And if the introduction of Prohibition should raise the standard of living of the people as it will undoubtedly do, that should raise the taxing capacity of the people. The Government of Madras have had therefore no hesitation in enforcing Prohibition throughout the Province from 2nd October. But Government are no doubt anxious that the enforcement should be a complete success and seek the unstinted co-operation of the people in this respect. It will really be a great achievement for the people and their Government that they should have undertaken and ventured to make the whole Province dry and thus give a lead to the rest of the world. But it is also responsibility that they have undertaken. And apart from the people reaping the full benefits of Prohi-



Jaggery manufacture is a gainful occupation for Ex-tappers

bition, we are interested in the success of this unique reform. That is why the law of Prohibition is made more and more stringent and offenders against Prohibition are sought to be punished severely. Those who indulge in illicit manufacture of intoxicating liquors seek to exploit the situation and the innocent people who have been redeemed from the drink evil, but who are still unable to resist temptation. These are the most criminal sinners against the State and society and they do deserve serious notice by the people and the Government. They can be made to desist from their nefarious activities only by a vigilant public who should not hesitate to trace and expose these criminals. Officers have also a solemn duty and responsibility to take steps to root out all illicit practices. But I would like to point out that any amount of official vigilance would not suffice in enforcing Prohibition unless the full co-operation of the people is forthcoming. Illicit manufactures and sales of drink are even greater temptations to the poor addicts than toddy and arrack shops kept open under the excise regulations. And particularly in the new districts which will become dry from the 2nd October next, extra precautions have to be taken in avoiding illicit activities. And I appeal to the public to co-operate with the Government in making this venture a great success.

Special Permits

There have been some criticisms regarding the issue of special permits to individuals in dry areas. Some persons who have been addicts have been applying for medical and other reasons permits to drink liquor. The system of permits has been accepted to provide for exceptional cases. It is but right that Europeans must be treated on a different footing. They are not domiciles in this country. The provision for permits, it has been found to have been taken advantage of very widely by all kinds of people in this country on the ground that they have been addicts and they could not carry on without drink. If addicts among higher classes must be provided for, there will be all the more justification to provide for the addicts among the helpless and poorer classes. By that rate there can be no Prohibition. It has therefore been decided that permits should not generally be issued to Indians or Anglo-Indians and that only exceptional cases and those aged over 55 should be considered. But regarding Government servants, Government having adopted universal policy of Prohibition, no Government servant who cannot help being an addict can remain any longer in service. It has therefore been decided that no permits need be issued on any account to Indians or Anglo-Indians in the service of Government.

The position of addicts among the poorer classes under Prohibition does need careful attention. They must be provided with counter-attractions which would make them forget the old habit. It is true that the working man needs amusement and that is necessary and that it should be provided for. But as His Excellency the Governor-General has said in the place of debasing drinks like toddy, arrack, ganja or opium, the amusement should be provided in the form of light entertainments that should be tuned with the culture of the people and their daily lives and capable of being maintained to local affairs.

Ameliorative Work

The importance of ameliorative work in the Prohibition programme cannot be better stated than in the words of Mahatma Gandhi who in an article in the *Harijan* observed as follows :—

" We cannot eradicate the evil merely by passing laws. The addict will manage to satisfy his craving anyhow. Those carrying on a black-trade will not readily give it up. Therefore the following steps will have to be taken simultaneoulsy in order to make a success of the reform :—

(1) passing of the requisite law ; (2) educating public opinion ; (3) opening at the same place refreshment rooms selling harmless drinks and providing newspapers, games, etc.

The objects of the ameliorative work undertaken are mainly (1) to provide substitutes for drink, and counter-attractions to drink with a view to enable the ex-addicts to forget their former habits and thereby to check any tendencies to break the law ; (2) to make use of his opportunity for promoting the moral, social and economic improvement of the people by organizing simultaneously with the introduction of Prohibition a rural uplift drive on a district basis, thereby aiming at the ultimate object of the Introduction of Prohibition ; (3) provision of employment to ex-toddy tappers in co-operative schemes like jaggery societies, milk supply societies, cottage industries, land colonization, etc., (4) co-ordination of the beneficient activities of all other departments of Government by (*a*) organization of rural uplift schools in which the officers of the various departments of Government participate and training of village workers ; and (*b*) by joint visits by the officers of the various departments the villages which respond to rural uplift work.

The finding of other avocations for the employment of toddy tappers and dealers in trade is another problem that has to be solved. Co-operative societies are being organized to take in their ex-tappers and those engaged in this trade could easily take to other channels which are opening up. Prohibition which is in the general interests of the people should not be reviewed as a reform inimical to any particular interest. Even the beneficiaries of excise trade, I have no doubt, do welcome the introduction of Prohibition as a great boon to the people. Let me hope that we, people of this Province, will turn a new leaf from 2nd October. We shall rise in prosperity and we shall evoke the admiration of those outside this Province. I have no doubt that even foreign visitors to this beautiful land of ours will be attracted more and more and look with interest to the new life we are embarking upon, eliminating this evil from us. We shall be teaching a lesson to the world that we can lead a happier and prosperous life without drink. May God bless us."

—*By Courtesy A.I.R., Madras.*

Rural Exhibition, Alur. The Collector is seen in the picture

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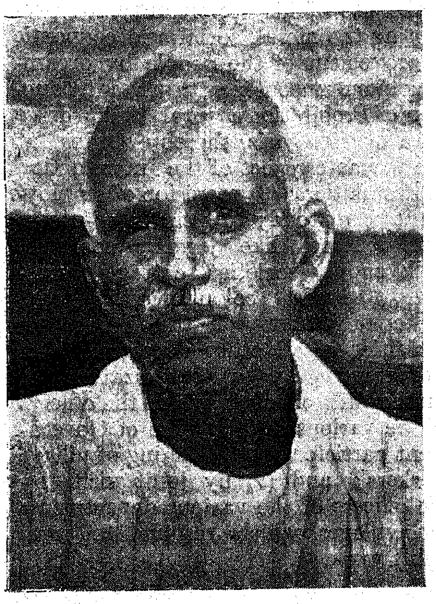

Guardians of Public Health

Premier's Exhortation at the Public Health Workers' Conference

The Art of healing is the noblest of all callings and many men in history who have been 'Ministering Angels' to the sick and the suffering are revered as saints all over the world. But all that is so precisely because service was the dominating factor and money a secondary thought, observed the Premier in the course of his address at the Provincial Public Health Workers' Conference recently. He said:

"I have great pleasure in inaugurating this Conference of Public Health Workers' for I consider them as guardians of people's health, and therefore of their wealth and welfare.

Public health workers everywhere have a heavy responsibility to discharge. The human body is an exquisite and wonderful handi-work of God. It may be perishable as dust, and chemically as carbon; but pulsating life concerns itself with it and the Divine Spirit chooses to dwell within. It is a glorious harp and to the extent we keep it properly tuned will it be able to strike hapsodics of piety and selfless service to humanity. The public health worker has the responsibility to see not merely that the single individual body, but the entire community is kept in good health. The range of his interests and responsibilities therefore naturally extend over a vast field. They are personal as well as environmental; preventive as well as curative; and he has to be a specialist as well as a 'basic' doctor. Improvement of drainage and sewage, provision of adequate and satisfactory water-supplies, scavenging, isolation of cases of infectious diseases, disinfection of premises, supervisions of contacts, careful investigation of possible sources of infection, port sanitary controls, supervision of housing condition, clearance of slum areas, provision of open spaces and cleaner atmosphere, analysis of foodstuffs, research on nutrition and dietics, supervision of production and distribution of milk, elimination of tuberculosis from dairy cattle, control of slaughtering and inspection of meat and vegetables, inspection of premises used for storage of food, maternity and child welfare, and a hundred and other activities connected with preservation of young life and old come under his scope.

A Distressing Picture

If the range of duties of the public health workers is wide and his responsibilities onerous in any country, they are much more so in India. I should say they are formidable and colossal. We have the highest death rate, and the lowest average expectation of life among civilized countries. Consequent on the disintegration that came in the wake of a transition from the rural to urban economy, from handicraft production to machinery, the continuous drift from villages to cities due to agriculture becoming unremunerative, and the pernicious habit of drink spreading as a result of a thoughtless excise policy—consequent of all these, malnutrition, disease, vice and crime are stalking the countryside. Infant mortality is the highest in the world. Nearly half the total deaths are among children under 10 and of these, one-half takes place within the first twelve months of a child's life. Hundred millions suffer from malaria and about 2 million die every year of it, 2·5 millions have tuberculosis and half a million die of it. Infectious diseases play havoc with the lives of the people and endemic diseases such as leprosy, filariasis, guinea-worm and hook-worm result in unparallelled morbidity, if not mortality; and Madras has a proper share in the all-India incidence in all these matters.

Hurdles of the Public Health Worker

Besides these maladjustments, personal and environmental public health workers in the Province have to fight against two other evils, namely, ignorance and superstition on the one hand and selfishness and vested interests on the other. The success of a public health service, as you are aware, depends more than in anything else on an enlightened and widespread public health education; and this education must be related to the basic life and practices of the people. It must begin at home; in the cradle, and extend to the school and college and touch every aspect of our being and living. Such an education we did have in the past. It was interwoven and co-extensive with life itself. Many a precept and practice in the daily routine of life, which through religion attained compelling sanction, would on analysis be found simple and effortless expedients to fight the innumerable air-borne and water-borne diseases with which Nature returns to Man's charge. The cowdung and the cow-urine were the most easily accessible and universally powerful germicidal products known to the Indian housewife and the cow became the object of veneration. The prevention of water courses from pollution was the surest way of warding off diseases; and water came to be worshipped as Goddess Ganga. In our latter day decadence no doubt a thick mist of ignorance and superstition came to envelop the inner meaning and significance of many of these ancient practices. A great work therefore lies ahead of the workers in the field of public health not only to educate, but to re-educate the large masses of people in the correct principles of hygiene and sanitation. As modern life becomes more and more complicated, diseases spread through myriad sources of infection, of whom the dhobi, the barber and the hotel are perhaps the most potent agencies. To cope up with this, modern public health service has to be thorough and pervasive.

All these make their work appear almost an uphill task; but there is nothing to despair of. Fortunately in our Province, we have an enlightened public opinion, the medical profession is greatly respected; and above all, the standard of public service in our local bodies, allowing for a few abberrations, here and there, is fairly high. Added to that is the fact that ours is the only Province where it has been

statutorily laid down that every municipality shall earmark not less than 30 per cent of its income from all sources other than Government grants for expenditure on the advancement of public health in its local area, including expenditure on medical relief, and every district board or panchayat shall similarly earmark not less than 12½ per cent of its income from such sources.

Hindu System of Medicine

I would, on this occasion, like to make a few frank, but friendly, observations direct to the men of the medical profession, without which I feel my address to-day will have been in vain. I referred to the almost universal respect with which the profession is held in this country to-day. It is largely due to your own work and you richly deserve it. At the same time, an impartial observer of social affairs cannot fail to take note of certain tendencies which mark the ideals of your noble calling. I refer to the attitude certain men of western medicine in this country adopt towards the indigenous system. The New Learning, unfortunately, has brought with it a certain amount of dogmatism, and with it an intolerance of the theories and practices other than their own. Genuine science should teach us humility and make us remember that what we have learnt is but a handful, and a whole sea of knowledge lies unexplored; that wisdom often cries out in the streets and the true scientist should be prepared to read sermon in stones and books in running brooks.

It is sad to find, therefore, that the Bhore Committee report is divided on the subject of recognition to be given to the indigenous systems and cite for their purpose the examples of China, Japan and Russia who have banned the practice of indigenous systems. I do not claim to know anything about the indigenous systems of Chinese, Japanese and Russian schools of medicine; but I can say this much of our Indian system that what is to-day practised as the western science of medicine has its origins in India from where it travelled to Arabia, Persia, Greece, Spain and Western Europe and has now come back to us in a new garb and with a new jargon. I have no less an authority than Lord Ampthil to support me.

The records of Hindu medicine begin with the Atharva Veda; appended to Atharva Veda is the Ayur Veda or the Science of Longevity. The Rig Veda mentions over a thousand medicinal herbs, and more significant than all these is the fact that physicians and surgeons were differentiated from magic doctors, and were living in surroundings surrounded by gardens in which they cultivated medicinal plants. Atreya anticipated Weisman by 2,400 years and held that parental seed is independent of parents' body and contains in itself in miniature the whole parental organism. Dhanwantri, Sushruta, Charaka, Vagbhata, Bhava Misra are names to conjure with in any scientific system of medicine. The latter in his voluminous work on anatomy, physiology and medicine anticipated by a hundred years' Harvey's theory of circulation of blood and prescribed mercury for the then novel disease, syphilis. Nor was it all merely empirical and confined to the field of medicine. Surgery was also highly developed. Sushruta describes many surgical operations, cataract, hernia, lithotomy, Ceasarian section, etc., and 121 surgical instruments including lancets, sounds, forceps, catheters and rectal and vaginal speculums. He advocated the dissection of the dead against all religious scruples. He was the first to graft upon a torn ear portions of skin taken from another part of the body and thus laid the foundations for the modern Rhinoplasty. Almost every major operation except the ligation of the arteries was performed. Limbs were amputed, abdominal sections were performed, fractures were set, hemorrhoids and fistulas were removed. Elaborate rules were laid down for preparing an operation, and Sushruta's suggestion that the wound be sterilized by fumigation is one of the earliest known efforts at antiseptic surgery. Both Sushruta and Charaka mention the use of medicinal liquors to produce insensibility to pain. In the 10th Century A.D., two surgeons trepanned the skull of a Hindu king, and made him insensitive to the operation by administering a drug called Samohini. Diagnosis by inspection, palpitation and auscultation was widely practised; so was also taking of the pulse and urine analysis. Vaccination was known to Dhanwantari in the 6th Century A.D. Many of the laws of sanitation by Sushruta and the Dharma Sastras are based on the germ theory of disease. Hypno-therapy, hydro-therapy and nature-pathy were also known. Yuan Chwang, who visited India records that Hindu medical treatment began with a seven-day fast; in this interval the patient often recovered; if the illness continued drugs were at last employed. Even then drugs were sparingly used; reliance was placed upon diet, baths, enemas, inhalations, urethral and vaginal injections and blood-lettings by leeches or cups. In the art of concocting antidotes for poison, the Hindu system stands unrivalled even to-day. To the many of the so called incurable diseases, the indigenous systems have powerful and almost certain cures. An almost parallel development has taken place at many points in the Siddha system of medicine in the south.

I have recounted to you at length the achievements of what I might call the Hindu system of medicine, not with a view to putting ourselves on our backs, which no doubt is legitimate on certain occasions, but to show how surprisingly modern are some of the theories and practices of our ancient systems. No doubt latterly the indigenous medical science and practice have become moribund and quacks have abounded like weeds covering the green corn; but it is for men of science like you to separate the grain from the chaff and bring to light all that is best in our systems, instead of poo-poohing the entire body of knowledge that has come to us from the days of our ancient Rishis. If you, men of science, do not do this, no State, whatever recognition it gives, may be able to do it. There is no conflict, there need be no rivalry between the ancient and modern systems of medicine. If only you wish, you can attempt at a synthesis of the two, where the one would be a complement to the other; and, in doing so, you may even arrive at medical marvels that may well prove India's distinct contribution to modern medicine. The Problem of medical relief in our country is so colossal, and our financial and technical resources so meagre that without such a synthesis, I fail to see how we can effectively organize any satisfactory system of Public Health Service within a reasonable point of time.

Spirit of Service

If you bear with me for a few more minutes, I will have one more point made—a point which I am never tired of repeating at Conferences after conferences; and that is, the spirit of service that should animate your profession. The art of healing is the noblest of all callings, and many men in history who have been the "ministering angels," to the sick and the suffering are revered as saints all over the world; but all that is so, precisely because service was the dominating passion; money a secondary thought. You have all taken the oath of Hippocrates, who has been hailed as the

Father of Medicine; but I should say there is an even more pregnant passage in Charaka's Samhita; " Not for self, not for the fulfilment of any earthly desire of gain, but solely for the good of suffering humanity should you treat your patients and so excel all." The way our present health service is organized is no doubt partly responsible for subordinating the service aspect to the money aspect. In Sweden, I am told on reliable authority, doctors are paid not on the basis of number of patients they cure, but on the number of people whom they prevent from falling a victim to disease. The doctor is paid a reasonable salary, irrespective of the number of patients he treats. In England, according to the latest scheme of National Health Service introduced by Mr. Bevan, medical benefit is given to all, irrespective of their ability to pay; and I understand the same is the case in Russia. I do not know how many years it would take us to organize a Public Health Service based on prevention rather than cure, and provision of medical benefit to one and all regardless of payment. Ours is a poor country; the rural masses are steeped in crushing poverty and it behoves our medical men to practice their profession with patience, generosity and a patriotic urge.

Conclusion

I hope my appeal to you, men of science, will not go in vain. The times are out of joint. The food crisis has brought with it many problems that may well tax all your qualities of head and heart. Great work confronts you in the preventive sphere regarding dietics and nutrition. Nutritional diseases are as much a result of inadequate rations as of incorrect diet habits. Food adulteration practised on an unconscionable scale aggravates the problem. Much can be done by you by way of nutritional education, and correct diet habits. Much more can be done by you to prevent food adulteration and suggest simple inexpensive supplementary foods. Let me sincerely hope that this Conference will be of use in finding correct and practical solutions to all these weighty problem, and lay the foundations of an improved Public Health Service to the Province. May God guide you in all your deliberations!

IN THE SPHERE OF EDUCATION

Education Reorganization Schemes

Basic Education

Ours is the great task of laying the foundations for a glorious future for this great country. It is in our homes, schools and colleges that these foundations should be laid. It is necessary that the reorganization of education in this country should be taken up from this point of view and the Congress Government, immediately after they assumed power, addressed themselves to this very important question.

Education in the past has been considered to be merely bookish and negative. It has been said that it has stifled initiative, confidence and courageous action and has not suited the genius of our country. This matter has exercised the minds of the best of our leaders and it was given to Mahatama Gandhi, the Father of our Nation and the Architect of our Freedom, to give a lead in this direction also as he had done in many other directions. He found that education to be real, must be based on activity and experience. He also found that we cannot afford to spend large sums of money on these activities as has been done in many foreign countries. He wanted to devise a system of education which, while providing various activities for the growth of the child, will be within the means of this country. The principle of education through activities was by no means new. Learning through activity and experience is an accepted educational principle throughout the world and Mahatmaji only voiced the opinion of the leading educational reformers of the world when he pleaded for such an education. Activity in the form of a continuous craft, which, while giving the child scope for activities, will also train the child in a useful craft, is his important contribution to educational idealogy.

> Our education has got to be revolutionized. The brain must be educated through the hand. Why should you think that the mind is everything and the hands and feet nothing? Those who do not train their hands, who go through the ordinary rut of education, lack music in their life.
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> * * *
>
> True education is that which draws out and stimulates the spiritual, intellectual and physical faculties of the children.
>
> —MAHATMA GANDHI.

In 1937, Mahatmaji summoned a conference of educationists to consider his ideas in education. The conference generally endorsed his suggestion and a committee, with Dr. Zakir Hussain as Chairman and Mr. Aryanayakam as Secretary, was appointed to draw out detailed syllabuses on that basis. The first conference took place at Wardha and the first experiment under the scheme was conducted in Sewagram near Wardha where Mahatmaji stayed. It was for this reason that this type of education came to be called the Wardha Method of Education. The Zakir Hussain Committee submitted its report on Basic Education. This was gone into by the Central Advisory Board of Education which appointed a sub-committee to go through the scheme in detail. On the recommendation of that sub-committee, the Central Advisory Board of Education, in its report on Post-war Educational Reconstruction, popularly known as the Sargent Report, accepted the main principles of Basic Education and advocated its acceptance thoughout India thus putting its seal of approval on the main principles that emanated from Mahatma Gandhi. The Government of Madras have accepted Basic Education as their policy in elementary education. They have accepted it because they believe that the

principles of Basic Education, if properly put into effect, will succeed in drawing out the best qualities in our children and developing their personality to the fullest extent.

A beginning to introduce Basic Education was made by the Government in this Province in 1938, but, before anything could be done, the Congress Ministry resigned. It was nearly seven years after that it had to be begun afresh when the Congress Government came into power in 1946. The Zakir Hussain Committee advocated a period of seven years' compulsion and the Sargent Committee Report a period of eight years. This Government, while agreeing to the benefit that will accrue by a longer period of compulsion, accepted as a practical measure, compulsion for five years. They have also accepted the syllabus as drawn out by the Hindustani Talimi Sangh for Basic Schools for these five years and have started training teachers on that basis.

In 1946, two training schools for teachers were started one at Vinayasram in Guntur district for the Andhradesa and the other at Periyanaickenpalayam in Coimbatore district for Tamil Nad, where there was an atmosphere suitable for the purpose. In that year, trained teachers were re-trained for Basic Education. During 1947–48, 27 Basic Schools were started with the help of these re-trained teachers. In the same year, five more Basic Training Schools were started in the Province. In addition to sending eight candidates for re-training in Sewagram, arrangements were also made to train the staff of our training schools in this Province itself. Out of the staff so re-trained, ten more Basic Training Schools were started in the current year. There are now 17 recognized Basic Training Schools and 70 Basic Schools working in the Province.

The Government have put for themselves a time-limit of about five years within which all training schools in the Province will be converted into Basic Training Schools. In order to do so, they have started the re-training of L.Ts. and the other staff of the training schools at Periyanaickenpalayam and at Pentapadu. The staff of training schools in the West Coast are being deputed to Sewagram this year for re-training and it is hoped that within a few years, facilities will be provided for aided training school staff also to be re-trained on Basic Education lines at these centres. It is expected that within the time limit fixed by the Government, all the training schools in the Province will be converted into Basic Training Schools.

With the acceptance of Basic Education as the policy of Government with regard to elementary education, it is also necessary that all elementary school teachers should be re-trained in the ideology of Basic Education. We have nearly 32,000 elementary schools with 125,000 teachers. The re-training of such a large number of teachers is a tremendous task but it has to be done. Though, in the beginning a course of about six months is necessary for re-training, it is possible that with the expansion of Baisc Education and by conversion of all training schools into Basic Education institutions, teachers will be more and more acquainted with the principles of Basic Education and the period of training may become shorter. Plans for giving such training as may be necessary are under the active consideration of Government.

The expansion of elementary education in this context means elementary education of the Basic type. It is the earnest wish of the Government that the system of compulsory Basic Education should be effectively put into practice within the next ten years. A Cabinet Sub-Committee has been appointed to go into the matter in detail and evolve a definite scheme for the purpose.

Improving the Status of Teachers and the Inspectorate

Any scheme of reorganization of education for its efficient working must depend upon the persons that work the scheme, i.e., the teachers and others who will be responsible for the success of the scheme. And so, the Government have taken up also the question of raising the status of teachers and the Inspectorate. The salaries of teachers of all categories have been raised. The grants for aided elementary schools have been considerably enhanced and in order to assure the aided school teachers a fixed income, separate grants have been paid to managements for the purpose. Besides, arrangements are being made to disburse their salaries on a monthly basis.

In order to provide better scope for elementary school teachers, opportunities have been given for them to qualify themselves to become teachers of secondary grade and later on of collegiate grade by appearing for examinations privately. The responsibility for the payment of dearness allowance to elementary school teachers will be taken up by Government and even the recent increase to Government employees in the dearness allowance has been made applicable to the teachers in elementary schools. To provide greater scope for those teachers in non-Government service, it has been decided that 40 per cent of posts of Junior Deputy Inspectors in Government service will be filled up by recruitment from secondary grade trained teachers under aided and local board managements.

With regard to teachers in secondary schools, the Government have compelled the aided managements to pay them at local board rates and to help them to do so, the Government have come forward with a two-thirds net grant instead of the original half. Teachers in aided schools have been agitating for a long time for the revision of the form of their agreements with the managements so that they may be given stability of tenure and right of appeal against orders of aided managements. The Government have considered the matter in consultation with the Provincial Advisory Board of Education and have revised the forms of agreement which provide for both permanence and stability. Teachers in high schools have also been given scope for recruitment as District Educational Officers in Government service. The rates of dearness allowance applicable to teachers in Government schools have also been made available to secondary school teachers in all managements and the Government are paying their share of dearness allowance to aided secondary school teachers. The Government are also contemplating the selection of Lecturers from aided institutions for Principals of Government Colleges. Thus, it will be seen that it is the policy of Government to raise the status of teachers as far as possible within the present circumstances.

In the interest of securing better people for the Inspectorate, the Government have taken other steps also. Till now, the age of recruitment for Government service in the Education department was 30 years and only L.T. or B.T. trained persons were recruited. In order to attract a better type of men and women to the Education department, the Government have issued orders providing for the recruitment of well qualified graduates without L.T. training under 25 years of age and sending them for training on stipends of Rs. 50 per mensem each. To provide for greater prospects for

School Assistants and Deputy Inspectors of Schools in Government service, the proportion of promotion to the first grade has been increased to 33⅓ per cent instead of the original 20 per cent. Other steps have also been taken to make the Inspectorate more efficient and better equipped.

Advisory Boards

As soon as the Congress came into power in 1946, they took up the task of reorganizing elementary education and accepted basic education as their policy. They turned their mind towards the reorganization of secondary education also. The Government were anxious to know and get into touch with the public opinion on these matters. With this object in view, they issued a detailed questionnaire to over a thousand persons and associations interested in education. Over 700 answers were received from individuals, associations and teachers' organizations. These were all gone through, collated and tabulated. The Government established two Advisory Boards, one for Basic Education separately and the other the Provincial Advisory Board of Education, to advise Government on all other aspects of education. Later on, the Technical Education Board was also constituted on the advice of the expert committee appointed for the organization of the new Engineering Colleges. Sub-Committees of the Provincial Advisory Board for Secondary, Collegiate and Adult Education have also been formed. Thus, it will be seen that the Government are anxious to establish bodies consisting of experts experienced in education to advise them on all educational matters. All the important reforms initiated by Government and the reorganization of the educational system as well as such matters as the Library Legislation, have been placed before these bodies and their opinion elicited.

On receiving the various suggestions through replies to the questionnaire, the Government took up the reorganization of secondary education in right earnest. The matter was referred to the Secondary Education Board. That Board appointed a sub-committee to go into the matter fully. That sub-committee consisted of distinguished educationists, principals of prominent colleges, representatives of universities and others. After considering the matter for many months, they submitted a report, which was considered by the Secondary Education Board. After having been approved by the Secondary Education Board, the report was again considered by the Provincial Advisory Board of Education.

After approval by the Provincial Advisory Board of Education, the general principles of reorganization were generally approved by Government and as many as 27 committees were established to go into the details of the scheme and to work out the detailed syllabuses. The members of these committees were drawn from the most experienced people in the teaching profession throughout the Province. These distinguished men and women who have laboured for education, many of them for more than a quarter of a century and who were leaders in various spheres in the educational world, gave the best of their experience in drawing up these syllabuses. After the revised syllabuses were drawn up, they were published in the Gazette for eliciting public opinion and in the light of public opinion received, the Government approved the reorganized scheme of education and the draft syllabuses drawn for them. The thanks of the Government are due to these devoted savants in the field of education who worked so hard and well to bring out this new scheme of secondary education.

Reorganization of Secondary Education

The main defects that have been pointed out in the old system of education are that it trained people to be merely clerks; that it did not develop leadership and self-confidence in our boys and girls; that it did not provide them with any professional training and above all, that it did not contribute to the formation of character and high ideals and did not impart civic sense or the sense of citizenship to our children. It has been said that it was devised by an alien Government to find employees to help them to run the Government at their behest and has not resulted in producing a large number of men and women of initiative imbued with great ideals and devotion to the country.

The present reorganization of education seeks to remove these defects. But it is not enough to view the reorganization merely from this negative point of view. It must also have positive ideals and objectives for which it must work. There must be a revolution in our view of education, particularly about the objectives of education. In olden times, it was said that the object of education was to give knowledge and to sharpen the intellect. But to-day, we have found by experience that mere giving of knowledge is not sufficient and mere development of the intellect at the expense of character and social sense may lead to undesirable consequences. And so, education to be true and of lasting value, should, in addition to giving knowledge and sharpening the intellect, also develop character and social sense. Our boys and girls must be made to feel that higher life consists not in their own personal satisfaction or aggrandisement, but in serving the community and the State. Education in free India should possess the characteristics of education of a free people in which men and women are trained to think freely, live and act with discipline and have ideals of service and devotion towards their country. The present reorganization of education has been effected with these great ideals in view.

Coming to the means of education, the old type of education was centred round books. People thought that if one crammed certain books and reproduced it in examinations, one was learned. This degenerated to such an extent that real knowledge was lost sight of and only undigested passages remained in the minds of students. Reformers in the educational field throughout the world, have pointed out that real knowledge can be achieved only through activity and experience. While the value and importance of books in the interpretation of the experience cannot be belittled, it is necessary to remember that real knowledge can be built only by experience. The present reorganization of education takes note of these factors and seeks to give knowledge to the individual child by providing it with varieties of experience on which it can build its education.

The main aspects of the reorganization are—

(1) The introduction of crafts as basic activities in schools in the middle school stage as a continuation of the principle of Basic Education accepted in the elementary school stage. In addition to exploiting the possibilities of craft for the purpose of education, this will also give a vocational bias to such of those children as may intend going for trade schools or professions at the end of the middle school stage.

(2) The introduction of citizenship training, is a new aspect in the reorganization of education. This, while it consists of the main elements of scouting, uses these activities for educational purposes. To put forward the good of the society and group before one's

own is an ideal which every child must cherish if we are to evolve a good and stable society. Confidence and strength of character must be the basis on which the life of every boy and girl must be built and these are intended to be inculcated through the citizenship training courses.

(3) A new meaning has been given to social studies. Previously, the various subjects such as Civics, History and Geography, were studied as separate subjects without proper correlation with each other. While Civics was studied for examination, the civic sense was absent. Various activities, such as excursions to places of interest, sharing the responsibilities of the school with the child and inculcating the practice of democratic principles in the schools through various methods have been made part of the syllabus under this head. This, apart from providing many interesting activities to the pupil, will succeed in giving real rather than merely theoretical knowledge in these matters.

(4) Another very important aspect of the present reorganization scheme is the difference provided in the curricula for boys' and girls' schools. The same curricula for both these types of schools has not resulted in giving proper training to our girls. With a view to make the training more purposeful home craft has been made the basic craft for all girls' schools, so that it will train them for life. While it is not the intension to prevent any girl from taking the subjects that she chooses to study when she goes for higher studies, this aspect of reorganization seeks to train the large majority of girls for the avocation which they may choose in life, later on.

(5) That our schools lead our pupils to blind alleys and do not teach them any useful craft or train them for professions of any kind has been one of the complaints against the present day education. For the last 15 years, many Committees of education have considered this matter and have suggested what are called bifurcated courses in the high school classes, so that a large majority of pupils, who have a taste for such avocations, may take to those courses. What has been talked of for the past so many years is sought to be given effect to under the present reorganization scheme. Engineering, Secretarial work, Agriculture, Teaching practice, Domestic Science, Drawing and Painting, Music and Dancing are provided in the bifurcated courses. The number of these bifurcated courses may increase according to the needs of the society. At present, a few schools, limited in number, have been chosen for these courses so that they can work efficiently to be examples to those that follow later.

(6) In the matter of languages, the regional language gets its rightful place as the first language. Then comes the second language group. Hindustani, Sanskrit, Arabic and other Indian languages form the second language group. A boy can choose any one of the languages in that group as his second language. English comes as the third language to be b gun in the II Form. This is so far as the Middle School is concerned. In the High School, the regional language is given eight periods, four of which are optional and four compulsory. Such of those (pupils) as want to study the regional language in the optional periods also, are free to do so, and such of those as want to exercise their option in favour of Hindustani, Sanskrit or any other Indian language are free to exercise their option and study any one of those languages. English continues right up to VI Form.

The Government should clear a misunderstanding that exists in the minds of some people that Hindustani has been made compulsory. It is not so. Hindustani is not compulsory in any part of our curricula. It is absolutely optional in both the Middle School and High School stages and it is open for anybody to take Sanskrit, Arabic or any other Indian language in the Middle School stage or the regional language itself in the High School stage.

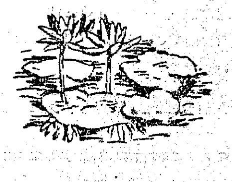
The Government would like to point out the high place that has been given to the regional language. Previously, one can avoid the regional language even in the II Form stage and take Sanskrit or any other language. Until recently, it was not also the medium of instruction in schools but now not only has provision been made for the study of the regional language by all pupils but it has also been made the medium of instruction in the schools. The Government have been taking various steps to develop the regional languages and there is absolutely no ground for fear that the regional language will in any way suffer by the pupil's taking one of the languages in the second language group.

(7) *Training for citizenship course.*—With regard to citizenship training, the Government have made arrangements for training nearly 1,000 teachers this year. It may be seen that in the Adult Education Scheme published by the Government, citizenship training figures prominently. Sanction has been accorded for organizing a series of camps for this purpose. The first two camps have already trained nearly 180 persons both men and women. It is also intended to organize eight training courses each to train about 100 teachers in the various mufassal centres such as Tiruchirappalli, Coimbatore, Salem, Cuddapah, Bellary, Vijayavada and Calicut. A Special Officer has been appointed for this purpose.

(8) *Reform of Examinations.*—Along with the Committee which made recommendations on the details of the Reorganization of Secondary Education, a sub-committee was appointed to review the present system of examinations and to recommend a more reliable system of testing the achievement of the candidates, taking into account their practical capabilities and factors of personality. The Committee recommended two schemes, one for ultimate adoption and the other for immediate introduction, if found acceptable. The chief recommendations consist of two parts: firstly the making of a provision for taking into account the work of the pupil throughout the school course and secondly provision for rating practical abilities, social behaviour and general factors of personality. The matter is under consideration.

(9) *Visual instruction.*—Recognizing the large and important part played by visual appeal in the education of children, Government took steps during 1947–48 for the introduction of visual education in schools. For this purpose they appointed a Visual Education Board consisting of progressive educationists with one of the officials of the Education department as the Secretary and approved a scheme for the regular exhibition of education films in schools and the levy of special fees to meet the expenses of exhibiting pictures. The Board reviewed applications from exhibitors and notified for the information of schools the names and addresses of registered exhibitors. Members of the Board have previewed the educational films which were available from the exhibitors and graded them. A graded list of such films has been published in the *Fort St. George Gazette.*

(*To be continued*)



Special Article

Forest Policy to Meet New Conditions

Since the last pronouncement of forest policy over half a century ago, there have been far-reaching constitutional, social, and economic changes in the country. India has achieved its freedom, but at the cost of partition, which apart from its political results, is bound to have far-reaching effects on the economy of the country. It is in the light of these considerations that the Government have to formulate their new forest policy. Some of the basic facts which must determine this are: (1) India is a land of many rivers whose economic importance cannot be over-estimated; the catchment areas of many of these rivers overlap the boundaries of several political divisions; floods are of common occurrence and the heavy silt of the rivers endangers the future of high dams. It is a commonplace that the catchment areas of no river in the country is adequately protected by vegetation. (2) Agriculture as practised in India cannot prosper without the protection of and association with forests. But agriculture has encroached on forest lands or has occupied marginal lands which are better suited to forest growth. This has resulted in an ill-balanced economy with its attendant evils of erosion, shortage of fuel and manure, timber and fodder, and grazing has advanced into many regions. Generally speaking, it is true to state that while human and animal populations have increased, the necessities of life have decreased. About three-fourths of the wood production of forests is in the form of firewood and charcoal. The supply of fuel and small timber to the rural population is the most important part played by Indian forests in the economics of the country. (3) Forests which are not under the control of a Forest Department are deteriorating for want of proper conservancy, including closure for regeneration. (4) In the interests of protection against soil erosion or timber production for the needs of the rural community, large areas of waste lands should be brought under forests. (5) Uncontrolled grazing has reduced the pasturage value of millions of acres. It will be necessary to effect a compromise between the conflicting interests of forest conservancy and grazing. (6) In many respects private forests are as important as those owned by the Governm nt; owing to a lack of proper management, private forests are fast disappearing. The position is similar in many of the Indian States and a continuance of the neglect of forest management will have an adverse effect on India as a whole. (7) Erosion is known to be serious in many parts of the country, which leads to a loss of moisture in the soil and, therefore, of soil fertility. The cure for erosion is linked up with such methods as proper forest conservancy, the regulation of grazing and land utilization. (8) There is a wide gap between the supply and demand for timber and fuel in the case of both local and general consumers. (9) The post-war development of industries generally, and particularly of those using wood has increased the demands on forests. This necessitates to an increasing degree, the exploitation of many kinds of secondary timbers which were previously not exploited. The available yield of these timbers is not known, but it is certainly not unlimited. Forest management will have to ensure a sustained production of these resources. (10) One of the lessons learnt during the last war, is that timber is still one of the vital needs of a country. India cannot afford to rely too much on imports in case of an emergency, and therefore it must build up its own reserves of timber. (11) The location of India's coal fields makes it necessary in the interests of the country's economy, the highest possible production of wood fuel. (12) Centralized research has proved beneficial, but there has been insufficient liaison between forestry and the trade. A close understanding between the producer and the consumer will lead to less wastage of timber.

The policy which the Government of India laid down in 1894 was sound in principle, but it was applied on a limited scale. In the present circumstances, a forest policy of a more positive nature is needed and it must be given a far wider field of application.

It has been stated in the earlier article that the area of forests and their productivity are inadequate for the needs of the country. The essence of the future policy must be the development of a national forest estate, which will make good these deficiencies. This can be done by (*a*) bringing additional land under forests, whether under Government or private ownership; (*b*) improving the condition of the unclassed and unreserved Government forests; (*c*) placing private forests under scientific management; (*d*) connecting unworked forests with roads and other lines of export; (*e*) improving through silvicultural practice, the yield capacity of the forests, and by replacing worthless growing stock with valuable plantations, if possible; (*f*) co-ordinating planned production or silviculture with industry; and lastly by (*g*) developing more economic methods of timber conversion and utilization.

Afforestation of Lands

At a rough estimate, about 140,000 square miles of properly managed accessible forests would probably supply the timber and firewood needs of the country. There still remains the problem of forests for protection of land and their satisfactory distribution. That leads us to the question of land utilization. It is clear that a forest policy by itself is inadequate, what is required is a land policy, the main object of which will be to derive from the soil the maximum benefits for the agricultural community in particular and for the country as a whole in general. Such a policy is essentially a longterm one, but the need for its application is urgent. If the soil is correctly used and if the right species are grown in the right place, then the country will get all the forests it needs and the evils of erosion and short production will be eliminated. There are large tracts of country where there are few or no forests. There are eroding areas which must be afforested either in local or national interests; there are marginal and sub-marginal lands which have wrongly been brought under cultivation, and which would be more profitably under forests. All these problems have to be tackled in the light of a national policy.

Grazing and Fodder

It is not possible within the compass of this article to do justice to the difficult problem of grazing; neither is it capable of solution in terms of forest policy alone. But obviously matters cannot be led to drift, since excessive or uncontrolled grazing is threatening the permanency of forests. While Forest Departments know that it is in their interests to have a contented and prosperous agricultural community along the border of their forests, there is a limit to the amount of grazing

the forests can stand. The grazing policy should therefore provide (1) grazing incidence equivalent to the carrying capacity of the forests, (2) priority for plough cattle and milch cattle, (3) grazing of essential cattle either free or at concession rates, and of non-essential cattle at commercial rates.

Fodder famines are frequent in certain regions which necessitate the import of fodder from localities with surplus fodder. These latter areas should have permanent arrangements for the export of grass.

Shifting Cultivation

Shifting cultivation is a serious problem in certain Provinces. This age-old custom peculiar mainly to aboriginal tribes, leads to the gradual destruction of the vegetation of the mountainous regions and ultimately to sterility of soil and erosion. Forestry is closely concerned with this problem and can help in a variety of ways, for the land subjected to this practice is essentially forest land and the people are forest dwellers. The problem is already being tackled in certain Provinces, but what is required is a long-term policy, more reformatory than revolutionary in character.

Forest Management

It was recognized in India long ago that the establishment of forest management on the standards of advanced countries, was essential to progress. The result of this has been a high standard of efficiency in research and in the application of silviculture practice. Over 80 per cent of Government forests are at present under working plans, an achievement which is paralleled by only a few of the countries in Europe. The working plan sets out the objects for which the forest is to be managed or worked and prescribes for a period of years, the detailed scientific operations required to achieve these objects.

In addition to the working plans the proper foundations of a stable forest policy require expert supervision and adequate funds. The stability of forest industry and continuity of action, which is essential for the protection and maturing of timber trees, depends on the assurance of funds sufficient to carry out an accepted policy over a period of years. Forestry has suffered in the past from financial stringency. Economic crises and slumps are inevitable ; but they should be regarded as episodes in economic history. In forestry unlike in agriculture where crops mature and are harvested in a year, any harm or set-back resulting from severe restriction of funds is incalculable. Its results would be manifested after many years in the form of less favourable financial returns.

Central Co-ordination

It is clear that forests are in numerous ways closely linked with the well-being of the nation as a whole. The aims and objects of forest management in all provinces, despite the diversity of local conditions, are fundamentally the same. There must, therefore, be a national forest policy.

India is a rapidly developing country anxious to take her rightful place among the advanced industrial countries of the world. It is axiomatic, therefore, that production and mobilization of resources must be subject to some degree of co-ordination. Were there an equal distribution of forest wealth throughout the country, a uniformity of demand for forest produce and of opportunity for industrial development, such co-ordination might perhaps not be necessary. But these conditions do not exist and this fact cannot be ignored.

To take only one example : all provinces are alive to the need for counter-measures against erosion and flood control, and each may take such steps as it considers appropriate or as are within its capacity. Soil conservation however, is a nation-wide problem and can never be dealt with on purely provincial basis. This is an age of great river-control schemes and the Central Government is in the best position to co-ordinate action and concentrate effort in the form of organization and funds.

The responsibilities of the Central Government may be briefly defined under three heads : (1) to set up machinery to assist and co-ordinate in the planning of land utilization and soil conservation ; (2) to finance partly or wholly, urgent schemes for the improvement of the catchment are as of great rivers ; and (3) in consultation with the Provinces, to plan the production of timber and other forest produce.

Despite the growing appreciation of the need and the value of forests, there is still a lack of understanding of the importance of forestry and soil conservation in the economic life of the nation. It is essential, therefore, to educate the public to a realization of the importance of the subject and inform them of the reasons for Government action. For, in a vigorous democratic state, unless the ' demos ', our ultimate masters, are alive to their duties and responsibilities, co-operation will not be forthcoming and the execution of a policy however carefully planned, will be hampered at every stage.

National Volunteer Corps in East Punjab

The National Volunteer Corps started a few months back by the East Punjab Government to meet the insistent popular demand has received, as was expected, a tremendous response by the public and now in almost all the districts the public are receiving their regular training. The target fixed by the government, i.e., 13,000 has already been achieved. To meet further public demand a "Mass Training Scheme" under the aegis of the National Volunteer Corps has also been undertaken. Both men and women are being given 21-day course training. The course includes physical training, footdrill, rifle drill, bayonet fighting and lectures on citizenship and hygiene.

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Panchayats in East Punjab

The Government of East Punjab are publishing fortnightly reports on the working of panchayats in that Province. These reports contain information about the provision of amenities, the collection of voluntary contributions and threw light on the different directions in which the panchayats are endeavouring to improve rural conditions.

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Children's Centres in Bombay

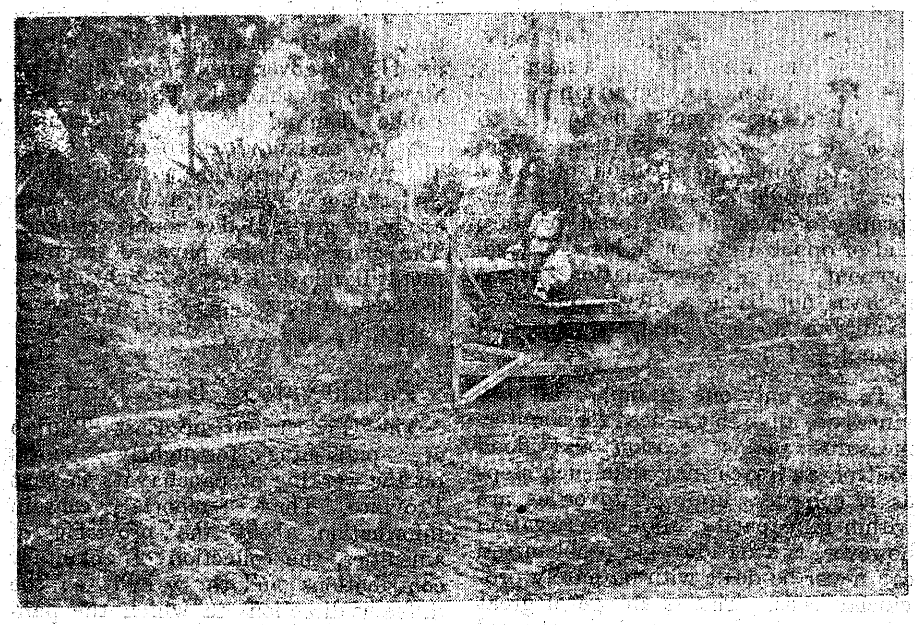
"I look forward to the day when it may be possible through co-operation between the Government and private philanthropy and organizations like yours and the Balken-ji-Bari to set up, not only in Bombay but in many other places in the Province, permanent children's centres where facilities will be provided for their free activities, their games, their reading for pleasure, their study of arts and crafts and the collections of specimens of their artistic and productive activities," observed Mr. B. G. Kher, the Premier of Bombay, performing the opening ceremony of the Bal Shikshan Nagar in Bombay, recently. The Premier hoped that in the very near future it would be possible for them to bring into being more such centres which will be open to the poorest child in the land.

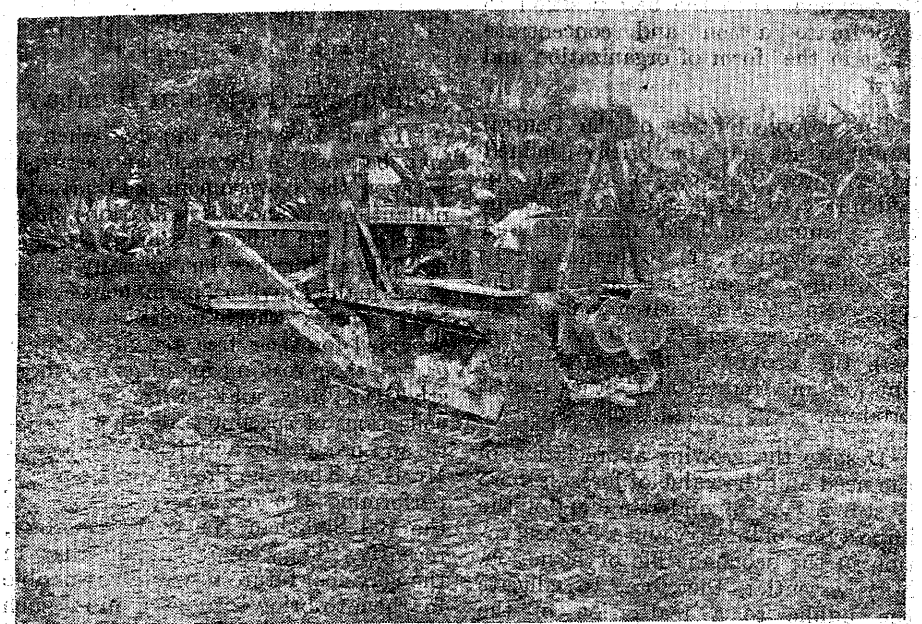
AGRICULTURAL NOTES

Science to the Aid of Agriculture

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has organized co-ordinated research and subsidized village project schemes embracing important aspects connected with agriculture and animal husbandry.

Improved strains of rice, wheat and other crops evolved by the Council during the last 20 years, have, at a very moderate estimate offered a return of Rs. 29 crores to the Indian Agriculturist. As against this the amount spent by the Council on its more than 200 research schemes is Rs. 56 lakhs and will probably be Rs. 1·25 crores when the schemes terminate.





Closing the breached portion of an embankment with bull dozer in Coimbatore district.

The increased yields due to improved varieties vary broadly up to 25 per cent. If only a small increase, viz., one quarter of a maund per acre is assumed due to improved varieties, it works out to an extra yield of about 29 million maunds.

Rice

An impetus was given to improvement of rice production by subsidizing a chain of schemes at Berhampur, Cuttack, Chinsura, Nagina, Raipur, Habibganj, Bombay, Madras, Mysore, Kashmir, Travancore and Baroda. As a result of investigation on the breeding side, a large number of varieites has been produced which are suitable for varying conditions such as high and low-lying areas, and resistant to attacks of insect pests and diseases. In parts of Central Provinces and Berar the evolution of purple pigmented varieties has solved the manace of wild rice weed and led to a saving of about 20 lakh maunds of paddy in the Chattisgarh Division alone, whereas the cost of research was about Rs. 1,00,000. The percentage of increase amongst the important varieties has been 20 to 25 per cent in Bihar, 30 to 52 per cent in Orissa, 17 to 23 per cent in Travancore and 55 to 70 per cent in Kashmir. The results in Bengal and Madras have also been of a similar order.

Wheat

In wheat rust has been responsible for devastation of large areas in Central India, Central Provinces and Berar, Bombay and Hyderabad. Ordinarily the loss on account of rust is about 5 per cent involving an annual loss of about rupees six crores. Research on this work carried on for a number of years, suggests that the persistence of rust from year to year is probably not due to alternate hosts, but to the oversummering of the disease on the self-sown crop and early sown wheat in the hill areas of Nepal in the north, and Nilgiris in the south. The disease from there is carried by wind to the plains, where the standing crop is infected resulting in bad years, in the complete destruction of the entire crop. Ameliorative measures lie in breeding rust resistant types and adoption of control measures. The Council is concentrating attention on both these measures and work has been in progress in Bombay, Central Provinces and Berar, Central India, Simla, Bhowali, Karnal and Agra. Though the breeding of rust-resistant types have been necessarily slow, certain reasonably resistant types have been evolved and

several of the new Pusa wheats under trial have been showing promise.

Millets

Investigation on millets shows in the case of jowar: (1) an increase of 20 per cent yield in areas of scanty rainfall by dry farming methods, (2) control of fungus attack by treating seed with copper sulphate and powdered sulphur and (3) control of jowar borer by mechanical methods of cleaning the stubbles after harvest and burning them. In respect of maize, work has been initiated under the grants of the Council at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute and in important maize growing Provinces in India. Co-ordinated schemes have also started on bajra and ragi, yielding useful results. Trials in Baroda with bajra have resulted in as high a yield as 731 lb. as against 531 lb. In Mysore they have recorded 30 per cent more yield over the local variety.

Pulses

In the case of pulses, India is very rich in species and varieties. The Council initiated a co-ordinated research scheme in almost all Provinces and States of grams, horsegrams, arhar, mung, urd and other pulses. In Poona 8 selected varieties of gram gave 10 to 30 per cent increase over the local type. In Central Provinces and Berar one variety gave 726 lb. per acre against 226 lb. and another 1,100 lb. against 818 lb. Work has been in progress to evolve wilt resistant varieties and successful results have been obtained in some centres.

Fruits

The Council has been subsidizing schemes for production of fruits in Madras, United Provinces, East Punjab, Bihar, West Bengal, Central Provinces and Berar, Assam, Hyderabad, Mysore and Coorg. Canning of fruit and preservation of fruits is being conducted in Madras and at the Indian Institute of Fruit Technology, now at Delhi.

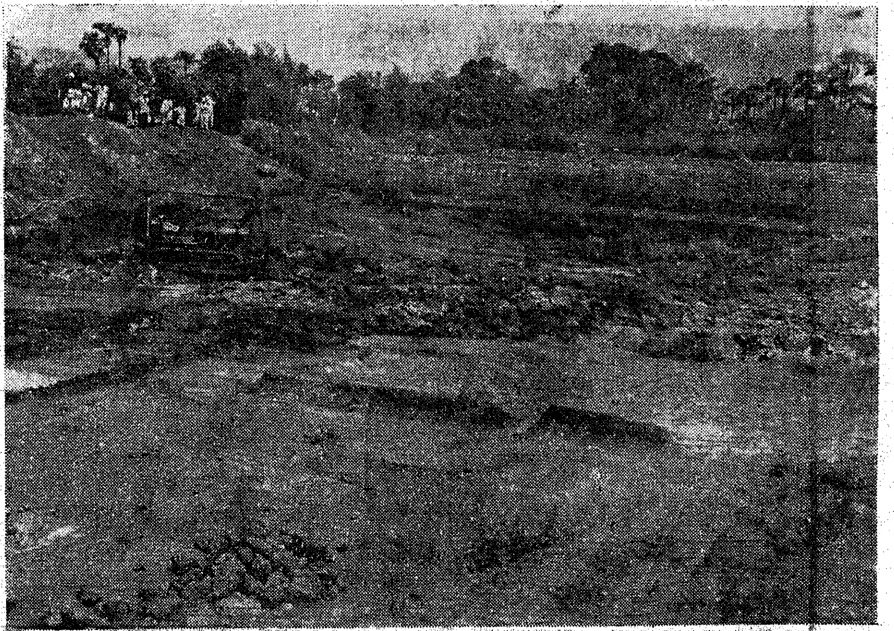
A collection of potato varieties in Simla has been the material for evolving improved types of hybridization.

Manurial Experiments

Investigations have been conducted with organic and inorganic manures, farm-yard manure, cattle dung, compost and oil-seeds. In all about 5,000 trials have been conducted on various crops including paddy, wheat, jowar, groundnut, millets, oil-seeds and pulses. The increased yield through ammonium sulphate has varied from 21—24 per cent in Bengal to 70 per cent in United Provinces and Kashmir. With oil-cakes, the maximum increase has been as high as 110 to 190 per cent. Application of 30—40 lb. nitrogen through green leaves is likely to increase the yield by 22—30 per cent, whereas a heavier application of green manure (60—80 lb. nitrogen) has given in certain cases over 100 per cent increase.

Animal Husbandry

More than 100 research schemes covering all aspects of animal husbandry are in progress. The stress from early days has been on diseases control because of enormous loss resulting from fatal livestock diseases in the country. Research in animal diseases and health is directed towards prevention or control of contagious and infectious diseases. Rinderpest being the chief disease, has received the most attention and methods of immunization against other diseases, are being used extensively. The importance of survey of diseases was early recognized and as a first step it was considered



Excavating a tank in Malabar district with a D-6 Bulldozer (in 7 days)

necessary to find out diseases which caused most loss and the conditions under which they were encountered. Disease Investigation Officers were employed in practically all Provinces and major States. A complete veterinary survey has been made and also some of the diseases of unknown origin have been defined, their causes ascertained and methods of overcoming them made available.

Parasitic diseases received early attention. The first Indian Council of Agricultural Research Scheme was started in 1934 in the Punjab followed by others in United Provinces, Central Provinces and Madras. These have been mainly directed towards elucidation of the life history of common parasites so that methods of control can be framed. A devastating sheep disease called 'pitto' or 'Gillar' which is caused by a parasite has been investigated in detail in Bihar and a simple method of treatment tried with success.

Animal Nutrition

Basic information concerning animal feeds has been collected As a result of research it has been found that the feeding value of rice straw is enhanced by washing, Munj and Kans grasses can be used by ensilage, the use of fish and bone-meal form a valuable addition of protein and concentrates and can be used with impunity under Indian conditions. Attention has also been paid to the study of acquatic grasses as well as monsoon grasses and their preservation. An experiment just completed, proves that climate by itself plays a minor part in the defective growth of animals, when compared to unbalanced or insufficient diets, and the effects of parasites.

Animal Breeding

Research in cattle breeding has been associated with the immediate production of improved sires for immediate use. Breeding research in regard to sheep has been directed to an improvement for the production of more and finer wool. This is evidenced by the interest taken by shepherds of Bombay, Mysore, Kashmir and to lesser extent in the Punjab.

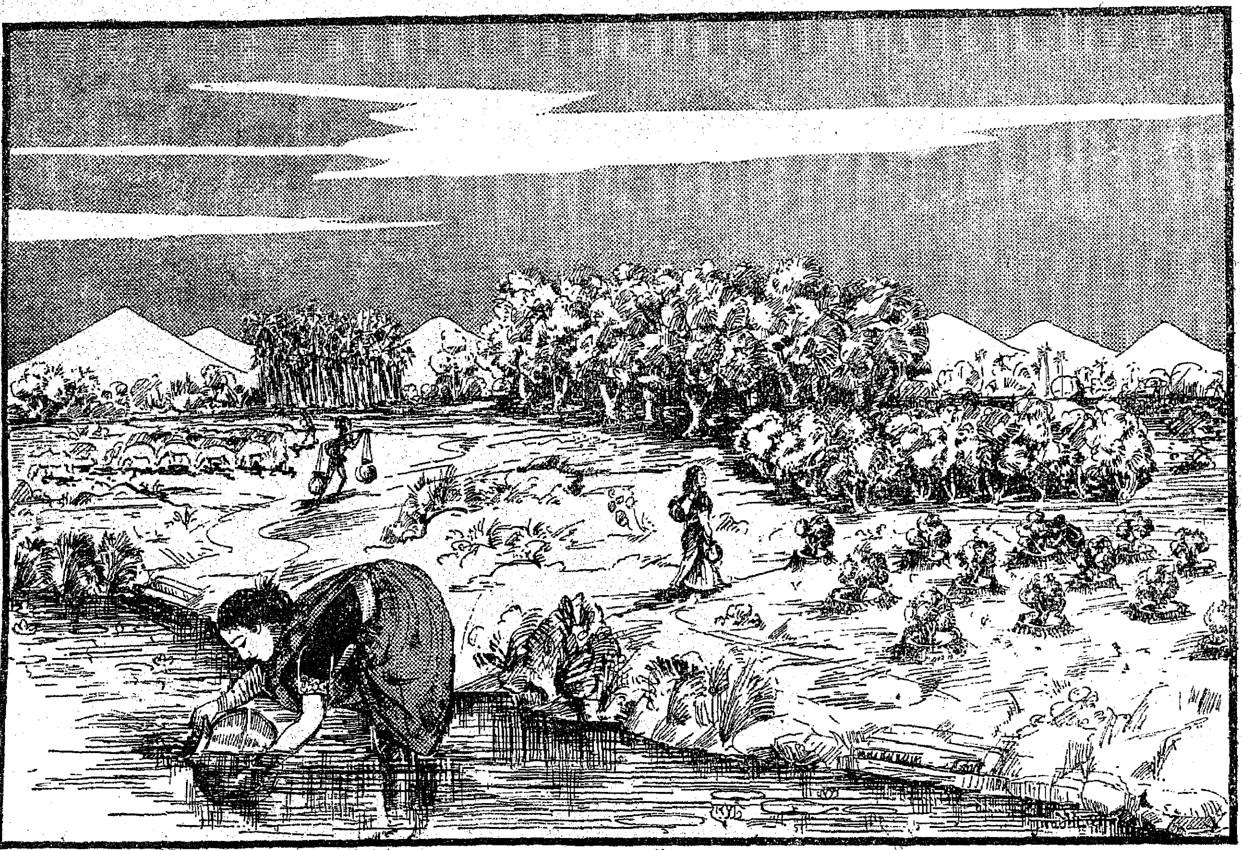
Poultry breeding research has aimed at improvement through the introduction of western breeds, and has shown that these breeds can be acclimatized in India and the production and yields of local birds can be increased by cross breeding with the Desi stock.

Other Research Schemes

General results of practical value so far obtained in respect of dairying are the production of vegetable rennet, manufacture of casein and lactose as a cottage industry method of neutralizing high acidity of ghee by use of lime, manufacture of a simplified and improved ghee boiler and village utensils and the seasame oil test for detecting adulteration of ghee with vanaspati.

In agriculture, research has been directed towards obtaining knowledge concerning indigenous varieties of breeds, their domestication and exploitation in the wild state. It is possible to teach villagers improved methods of bee keeping which even the poorest may follow. Cheap appliances have been devised.

A cheap dressing for hides and skins, which villagers can apply to cattle, has been proved to be successful.



Planting for prosperity

AGRICULTURE IN OTHER COUNTRIES

New Chemical Compounds Aid American Farmers

American farmers are spending billions of dollars annually in their fight against insects, weeds and plant and animal diseases. Each year they spend $500,000,000 on insect control alone. To-day many new chemical compounds —some born of wartime research—are available to aid the farmers. Among the new trends in agricultural chemicals is the growing importance of synthetic organic chemicals, whereas in the past most farm chemicals came from plant sources or from inorganic materials, such as copper compounds. Another trend is to more specific and selective compounds designed for special purposes. In fertilizers, too, the trend is to specific formulas for each type of soil and each crop that is being grown.

But the chemist has gone farther than merely providing defensive weapons. He also has equipped the agriculturist with new substances—harmones—that allow plants—and even animals—to be shaped to the farmer's desire. An era of "tailor-made" crops is on the horizon, say some authorities. The growth and qualities of both plants and animals will be almost to specifications, and farming will change from an art to a science.

Modern Soil Conservation Methods in American Farms

Good crop rotation and livestock management programs combined with a complete soil conservation program have greatly improved the fertility and productiveness of many American farms, particularly in the corn and small grains region around Des Moines in the midwestern state of Iowa.

A typical farm, where these modern agricultural methods have proved their worth, is the farm of Chris Jensen near Audubon, a small city of 2,500 population located about 80 miles (128 kilometers) west of Des Moines. The soil map of the farm shows moderate slopes ranging from 3 to 5 per cent and rolling slopes ranging from 5 to 18 per cent. There are three principal soil types, but the bulk of it is Marshall silt loam.

The oddly-shaped fields, which follow the contour of the land, interspers d with terraces, buffer strips and grassed waterways have led strangers from the city and even old-fashioned farmers to call the Jensen farm a "crazy quilt" farm. And so, in truth, does the pattern of his farming appear on a chart. However, to Jensen and hundreds of Iowans who are farming the modern way, everything in that crazy quilt pattern helps save precious top-soil, conserves water and prevents erosion and the formation of gullies. The unusual layout means increased yields of corn (maize) for animal feed, oats, and a heavier, thicker growth of nutritious grasses and legumes which, in turn, mean more and higher quality pork, beef, milk and eggs.

The often-heard criticism that too much land is taken out of production and that farming such oddly-shaped fields is a nuisance can best be answered by Jensen, who in a recent interview declared, "I would farm no other way."

Jensen's farm is two and a quarter miles (three and one-half kilometers) north-east of Audubon. He moved there in 1935 and started the "face lifting" in connexion with a long-time soil conservation plan in 1939. As a camparison of yields, the land formerly produced 75 bushels of corn (65·308 hectoliters per hectare) and 45 bushels of oats (39·185 hectoliters per hectare) to the acre. These averages have now been increased to 100 bushels (87.1 hectoliters per hectare) of corn and close to that quantity of oats in the best of crop years.

Jensen had one 10 acre (four-hectare) field of contoured corn (that is, corn planted on land that had been plowed horizontally along slopes to hinder water run-off and erosion) which, yielded 137 bushels per acre (119·318 hectoliters per hectare) in 1944 in the official state contest conducted by the Iowa Corn and Small Grain Association. This yield, the third highest in the state that year for corn grown on the contour, was made on ground where sod and a covering of barnyard manure had been turned under. No commercial fertilizer was used.

As for oats, Jensen says 1945 was his best year in a long time. He had an average yield per acre of 95 bushels (82·723 hectoliters per hectare).

Jensen currently has turned much of his land over to production of certified brome grass seed, a grass having large spikelets, and grown for forage. He is producing a Fischer strain developed by Iowa State College, and last year produced 250 pounds to the acre (283·75 kilograms per hectare) on 25 acres (10 hectares). He received for the grass seed approximately 40 cents a pound (·454 kilogram). Moreover, this grass can be grown on many of the soil-conserving strips of land between the row crops.

Like most progressive United States farmers, Jensen rotates crops on each part of his growing fields, but without disturbing the permanent layout of terraces, buffer strips, and waterways. The crop rotation followed is two years of corn, one year of oats with brome and alfalfa seeded on the same ground later in the year, then alfalfa and brome for two years before returning to corn. This five-year rotation is carried on normally in all six fields on the farm. By this system, one field is in retirement each year. This rotation is out of balance, temporarily, on the Jensen farm because of the present emphasis on brome seed production.

Jensen, for the past four years a member of the State of Iowa Soil Conservation Committee, says Iowa's good soil needs the best of management with a good rotation.

That these modern methods of farming being applied in Iowa are successful is proved by the current estimates of a record crop of nearly 700,000,000 bushels (246,000,000 hectoliters) of corn for the state of Iowa this year, an average yield throughout the state of 61 bushels to the acre (53·117 hectoliters per hectare)!

United States Program to Conserve Foodgrains

To help preserve bumper grain crops harvested this year, the United States Department of Agriculture is co-operating with State and County agricultural experts in a program to help farmers build additional storage facilities on their farms. The program was started when it became apparent that terminal storage facilities and country elevators could not provide the needed storage space.

Engineers of the Agricultural Department and State agricultural colleges worked out plans for bins and cribs that could be built cheaply and quickly. These plans were distributed free to farmers. In addition, a series of regional, State, county and community meetings were held to demonstrate to farmers in every area the best methods of constructing additional storage facilities. In the midwestern State of Iowa, for example, a series of demonstrations is now being held, with a 1,000-bushel crib completed at each demonstration.

Agricultural experts point out that the storage program is important not only to conserve foodgrains but to promote more orderly marketing of grains by farmers. Furthermore, proper farm storage facilities are necessary if farmers wish to qualify for Government financial aid on their stored crops.

This aid to farmers on stored crops takes two forms—loans or purchase agreements and is designed to assure a farmer a stable income. A Government loan is granted to a farmer on his stored crops at 90 per cent of the so-called parity price. (The parity price is the dollar value of a farmer's product so adjusted as to enable him to buy the same amount of consumer goods as he could in the period 1909–1914. This period is considered the time when the ratio between the prices of farm and non-farm goods was most nearly in balance.) At the end of a reasonable length of time, the farmer may sell the grain in the open market and repay the loan to the Government, or, if the prevailing market price is under the 90 per cent of parity price level he may turn the grain over to the Government as full payment of the loan.

Under the purchase agreement, a farmer has the option during an agreed period to sell all or part of his crop on the open market or to the Government at 90 per cent of the parity price. The difference between a loan and a purchase agreement is that, in the first case, the farmer cannot market his crop during a reasonable period while, in the second case, he can market his crop at any time during the agreed period, but with the assurance that he can turn over any unsold portion at the end of the period to the Government as the 90 per cent of parity price. Under the purchase agreement, the farmer pays only 1/2 cent a bushel for this price-support protection.

DELHI DIARY

Study of Soil Mechanics

Engineers working in different fields in India have joined together to form a new organization called the Indian National Society on Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering with the aim of encouraging the study of, and research in soil mechanics and foundation engineering.

The science of soil mechanics has made rapid advances during the last two decades and has revolutionized many aspects of structural, earth dams and road engineering. It will be the object of this Society to study the developments that have taken place in this sphere of science and to devise ways and means of applying the results of their study to the designing, construction and maintenance of various engineering projects in India.

The Society will provide liaison with the International Society on Soil Mechanics and Engineering Foundation and everyone of its members will automatically be a member of the International body without any additional liability. The Society will publish an annual report on all activities in relation to soil mechanics in India and also republish for the benefit of its members similar reports from other countries received through the International Society.

At the first meeting of the Society held recently it was decided that membership should be open to all qualified engineers and research workers as well as institutions connected with or interested in soil mechanics and its application to practical engineering problems. The annual subscription is Rs. 15 for individual members and Rs. 100 for institutions. Further details can be had from the Secretary of the Indian National Society on Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering, Kennedy House, Simla S.W.

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Irrigation Map of India

The Central Board of Irrigation has recently issued an Irrigation Map of India, Burma and Ceylon (1946) prepared in the Board's Office and printed by the Survey of India. It is the first map of its kind.

The map is 60 inches by 42 inches in size and is divided in four sections. It shows in multicolour all rivers of India, the important canal headworks, canals and major distributaries, dams, hydro-power stations, types of irrigation, viz., perennial, non-perennial, inundation, from storage or tubewells, rainfall, contours and State and Provincial boundaries as existing in 1946. A statement showing areas irrigated during 1944–45 in various Provinces and States of India is also given at the bottom.

Copies of the map are available on payment from the Secretary, Central Board of Irrigation, Kennedy House, Simla S.W.

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Marketing Officers' Conference

Over 50 Central and Provincia Marketing officers attended a two-day session of the Tenth Marketing Officer's Conference at New Delhi.

To build up the reputation of Indian products in foreign countries, the Conference recommended that steps should be taken by legislation to regulate the quality of exports in accordance with Agmark standards. Pending the passing of such legislation, the present grading scheme of tobacco and sun hemp, should be extended to as many agricultural and animal husbandry products as possible, with first preference to oilseeds and vegetable oils.

Another resolution recommended the publication by the Central Directo-

rate of Marketing by the end of next year, survey reports on 15 commodities including millets, maize, pulses, mangoes, poultry, rice, milk, groundnuts and fish. Provincial Marketing Officers were advised to publish by the end of 1949 survey reports on the marketing of rice, milk, groundnuts and fish. Summaries of both the Central and Provincial reports should be published simultaneously in regional languages.

To protect the interest of the farmers in their markets, the Conference recommended that Provincial and State Governments be moved to enact the necessary legislation; arrange for the regulation of all the important assembling markets as soon as possible and entrust the administation of the Regulated Markets Act to the Provincial and State Marketing Officers or to other Officers with requisite marketing experience.

Other resolutions include the following :—

(1) To protect the interests of farmers and facilitate trading and pending recommendations of the Indian Standards Institution concerning the general reorientation of the Government of India's policy on weights and measures, Provincial and State Governments should undertake necessary legislation, if it does not already exist, for enforcing standard weights and measures.

The Government of India should expedite the work of the Indian Standards Institution concerned with the prescription of standards of weights and measures and to arrange for their effective adoption on an all-India basis.

(2) With a view to securing improvement in quality of agricultural produce, eliminating trade disputes and smoothening the operation of trade between distant markets steps be taken to prescribe standard contracts on an all-India basis for important staple commodities;

(3) On the subject of rail and road transport the Conference recommended that the Provincial and State Governments should (i) give the highest possible priority for the construction of all weather feeder roads in agricultural areas for facilitating the movement of agricultural produce to assembling markets or despatching stations, and (ii) popularise and assist in the use of pneumatic tyres for bullock carts and to assist in the manufacture and utilization of country carts for transporting agricultural produce.

It also recommended that the Rail Transport and Steamship authorities should (i) introduce a unified rates policy for different classes of goods for the whole country, and (ii) provide adequate number of ventilated and insulated wagons and refrigerated transport for perishable products like fruits, vegetables, eggs, fish, milk and butter.

(4) To secure a better return to the cultivator for his produce and save undue profits made by the middlemen, Governments in Provinces and States should encourage organization of producers' co-operative societies for the pooling, grading, processing, if necessary, and marketing of their produce and the organization of consumers' co-operative stores and to link them up with producers' marketing societies.

Resolutions were also adopted on establishment of licensed warehouses, containers and storage and training of candidates for marketing work.

> There is so much in common between man and man that it is a marvel that there can be any quarrel on the ground of religion. Any creed or dogma which coerces others into following one uniform practice is a religion only in name, for a religion worth the name does not admit of any coercion.
>
> —MAHATMA GANDHI.

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

"THE SOUTH INDIAN STUDENTS' HANDBOOK, 1948"

Publishers : The Enquiries, Limited, Royapetta, Madras. Price Rs. 2.

This useful guide-book satisfies a longfelt need of the students, especially those of the mufassal, who are unaware of the existence of many an education institution which provides them the course for which they have a real aptitude. Instances are not wanting of parents and students wasting their time, energy and money in futile enquiries and fruitless correspondence ultimately selecting the wrong course and the wrong place due to sheer ignorance of the existing facilities. This book gives all information about the higher educational institutions in the Province—both general and technical including information regarding hostel accommodation etc., and is thus an invaluable guide to every parent and student seeking a college course. It also contains useful information regarding the important educational institutions and specialized courses outside the Madras Province and to the youth who faces the acute problem of unemployment after a college course, it gives valuable hints about the competitive examinations for recruitment to Government service. For the time and labour spent on its production, the price should not be considered high and this useful and maiden venture of the Enquiries, Limited, Madras, deserves the encouragement and appreciation of the public in general and the student world in particular. It would rightly find a place in every College and High School Library in the Province. —K.C.N.

"YOUR PREDICTION"

By an Experienced Astrologer. Publishers : N. M. Thakkar & Co., 140, Princess Street, Bombay-2. Price Rs. 5-12-0.

The belief in the influence of planets over human beings is as old as the history of mankind and the science of Astrology has gained ground even to this day. To read the page of one's destiny, in however crude a form, is interesting to any individual. It is the field of the scholarly astrologer to discuss all facts in detail. The book under review attempts to give in simple narrative and in a brief and concise form and idea of the influence of the planets on persons born during particular periods in the year and an elementary knowledge about their character and future with useful hints

about the colours, days, months and figures that would bring them luck. Since a list of famous personalities who were born during the period is also furnished, the reader is enabled to gain some knowledge not only about himself, but also about his friends and be cautioned about incidents of an unhappy nature and the time and place to toil and persevere in the proper direction. The book is attractively got up. —K.C.N.

I. "THE NATION'S VOICE"

Edited by C. RAJAGOPALACHARI AND J. C. KUMARAPPA.

Navjivan Publishing House, Ahmedabad. Pages 254. Price Rs. 3.

Louis Fischer in his book "A week with Gandhi" has observed that while Mr. Jinnah talked *at* him, Gandhiji talked *to* him. Gandhiji's spoken word revealed his innermost thoughts; it was a word-picture of a master mind working its way to truth. His speeches even more than his writings, are a message from his to the speaker's heart. The twelve speeches included in his volume are characterized by this same honesty of purpose, purity of thought and accuracy in expression.

These speeches were delivered by Gandhiji during his visit to England, in connection with the Second Round Table Conference. When the "half-naked Fakir" spoke, it was the Indian nations' voice that spoke through him.

The second part of this book gives an interesting pen-picture of his stay and activities in England, by Bapu's Boswell, Mahadev Desai.

—K.D.

II. "ADVENTURES IN EDUCATION"

K. L. Shrimali Vidhya Bhavan Society, Udaipur, Rajputana. Pages 92. Price Rs. 3.

That the present system of education in India is foreign to our culture, unsuited to our genius and inimical to our progress, is a fact which has been recognized by educationists no less than by politicians. This realization has paved the way for many attempts to reform the educational system and re-orient it to suit our needs. One such attempt to impart national education was the founding of Vidhya Bhavan in 1931 in Udaipur. This book gives an account of the progress of this institution and the various educational experiments in "Nai Talim" (New Education) that were worked out therein. All these experiments realize the importance of recognizing and developing the creative faculty of the pupil, so that he may progress and grow rather than cram himself with book-learning that would be a deadweight on his mind.

The book will be of great interest now, particularly because Basic Education as envisaged by Bapu is slowly coming into its own.

—K.D.

> Those who respect themselves cannot make good the claim if they will not respect their neighbours, however few or insignificant they are.
>
> —MAHATMA GANDHI.

"INDIAN AFTER-DINNER STORIES, VOL. I"

A. S. P. AYYAR, *Teachers' Publishing House, Madras. Pages 141. Price Rs. 1-8-0.*

This is an entertaining collection of 51 popular stories that have gone from mouth to mouth in our parts. The author has done well in collecting together in book form what have till now been country tales and legends. Humorous as these are, there is invariably a moral dangling at the end. The stories have been narrated in an easy, idiomatic style. The get up of the book could have been more inviting and less like a text-book.

—K.D.

"A MOTHER'S SACRIFICE"

A. S. P. AYYAR, *Rochouse, Madras. Pages 60. Price Re. 1.*

This is the story of Punna, the nurse of the infant prince of Chitor who sacrificed her own child in order to save the prince and perpetuate the dynasty. This play in three acts has, by its artistic excellence, done ample justice to the noble and inspiring theme.

—K.D.

"STUDENT'S COMPANION—JULY 1948"

Edited by V. BALASUBRAMANIAM, B.A., *Price As. 5 per copy.*

This is a monthly journal. Its aim has been set out as "to enable the students to become useful and patriotic citizens of the land and help them absorb the best education and culture during the impressionable period of their lives." The journal contains articles on a variety of subjects. The editor deserves to be congratulated on this new venture.

—T.K.G.

"WOMEN OF MODERN INDIA SERIES—KASTURBA GANDHI"

Published by the Oxford University Press. Price As. 5.

This is a simple and unvarnished account of the life of Kasturba Gandhi devoid of all intricate details. Apparently, it is intended for young readers. It is printed in bold types and admits of easy reading. Sufficient light is thrown on the notable qualities of Kasturba Gandhi. Her devotion to her husband was unflinching and she stood by him through thick and thin. She was also interested in humanitarian work and proved herself extremely useful to Mahatmaji.

The publication of such lives constitute a useful form of literature. It is calculated to inspire and ennoble the readers. Such publications also serve to keep alive one's patriotism. Poet Long Fellow said:

> "Lives of great men all remind us
> We can make our lives sublime
> And departing leave behind us
> Footprints on the sands of time."

This passage embodies an axiomatic truth and publications such as the one in hand are calculated to realize this truth. —T.K.G.

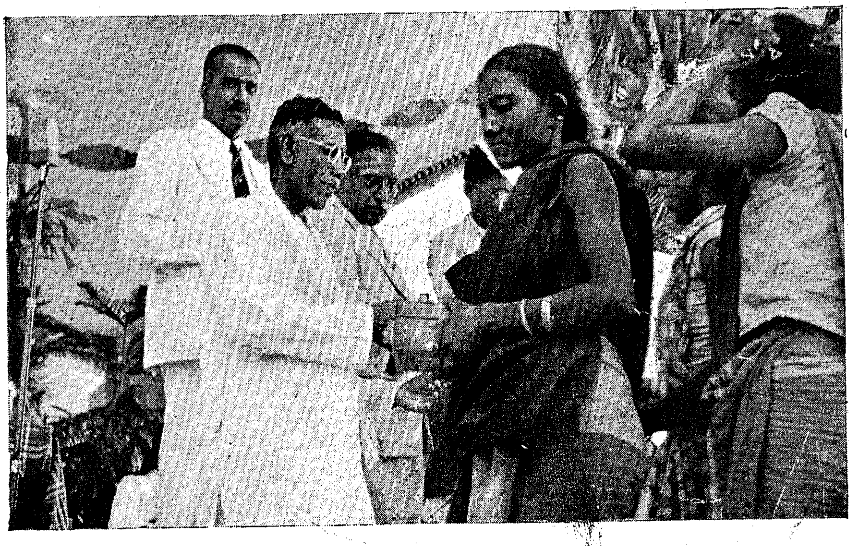
"PLAN FOR EDUCATION"

By F. G. PEARCE, *Published by the Oxford University Press. Price Rs. 3.*

This is a descriptive and critical commentary on post-war educational development in India otherwise known as the Sargent Plan. The book has been neatly got up and is richly illustrated with telling diagrams intended to elucidate the subject-matter. Professional people may find this book especially useful. —T.K.G.

INAUGURATION OF PROHIBITION—CASUALSNAPS

Hon'ble Dr. S. Gurubatham Inaugurated Prohibition in Tinnevelly at a crowded public Meeting



The Hon'ble Minister for Prohibition distributing Hundi Boxes to wives of Ex-addicts

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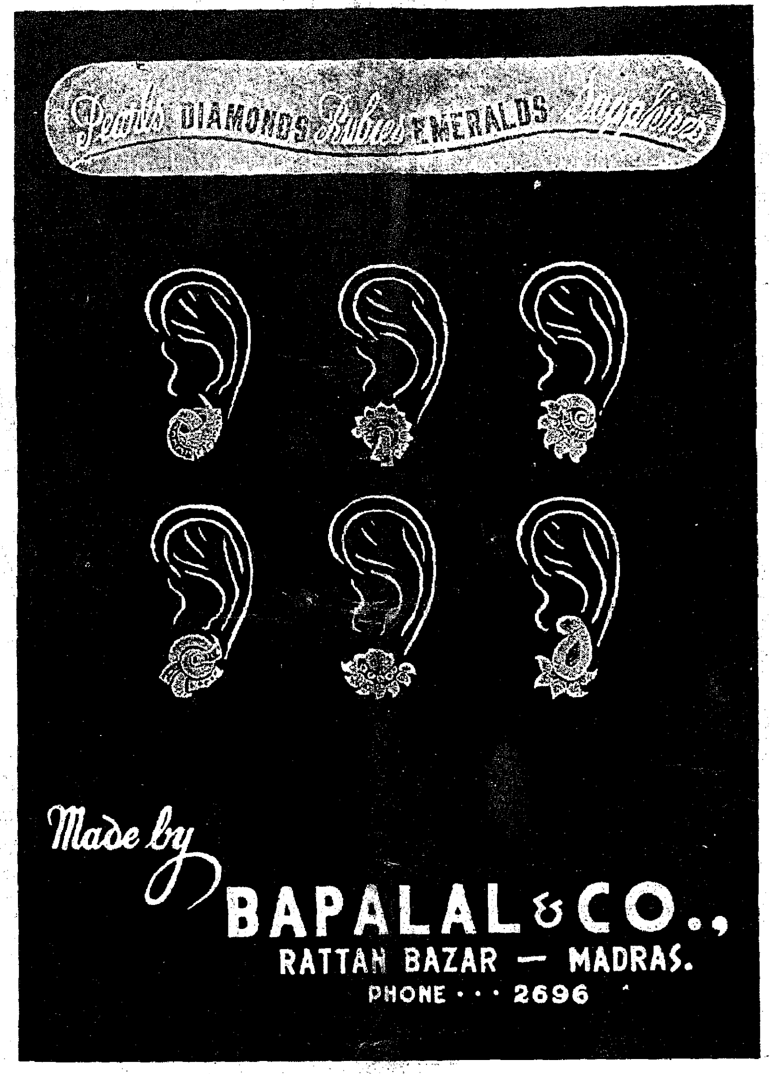

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